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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-195 *7 October 1994*

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Arabi-Israeli Talks

Crown Prince Hasan's U.S. Visit Said 'Very Successful'

JN0610145594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jordanian Ambassador to Washington, head of Jordan's delegation to peace talks, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, has said that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan's visit to the United States was very successful.

Speaking to Jordan Radio on the telephone from Washington, Dr. al-Tarawinah said the Jordanian-American bilateral committee agenda was put during the Crown Prince's meeting with the U.S. president. He added that the committee is scheduled to hold its next meeting in Amman in December.

Dr. al-Tarawinah pointed out that his royal highness' visit has persuaded the American administration that Jordan will be the axis of any economic plan for the Middle East region. He said that many issues relating to the peace process were tackled such as land, water, and environment. Dr. al-Tarawinah expressed hope that the next round of peace negotiations between Jordan and Israel, due to be held in the Israeli Port of Elat next Monday [10 October], will achieve substantial progress.

Al-Shar' in Washington Says Syria Committed to Peace

TA0610190894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Oct 94

[Report by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir in Washington; recorded passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We saw Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' before his meeting with Warren Christopher at the State Department a short while ago. The Americans and the Israelis stationed here have been seeking a public Syrian gesture toward Israel for quite some time. I asked Faruq al-Shar', therefore, why representatives of the Israeli electronic media have not been invited to his news conference in Washington tomorrow.

[Begin recording] [Ahime'ir, in progress]...to the Israeli Television directly, or to the Israeli electronic media, as a sign of reconciliation between the two countries. Why do you refuse to talk to the Israeli Television?

[Al-Shar'] I held many press conferences, and there was no discrimination whatsoever about the journalists attending those press conferences. [end recording]

And another question urged the Syrian minister to send a message to the Israeli people:

[Begin recording] [Jerusalem Television Channel 2 political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen] Can you deliver a direct message of peace to the Israeli spectators?

[Al-Shar'] Well, we have been saying openly and since the Madrid conference that Syria wants peace, and that for Syria, peace is a strategic option. President Hafiz al-Asad, on a number of occasions, he made it clear that Syria is committed for a just and comprehensive peace in the region, based on UN Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy, and that Syria is prepared to meet the requirements of peace, and those requirements should be objective, should be agreed upon. And in the forefront of these requirements is the full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Closing of Damascus-Based Boycott Office Denied

JN0710065994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Zuhayr 'Aqil, head of the Damascus-based office for Arab boycott of Israel, has denied that the Arab League has decided or intends to close the office, as reported recently by an Israeli paper.

Our correspondent in Damascus Thana' al-Imam asked Zuhayr 'Aqil about this report. 'Aqil said:

[Begin 'Aqil recording] This report is baseless. Any Arab citizen should realize that this is a fabricated and groundless report. The Arab League issues its decisions in its ordinary sessions only, and the next ordinary session will be held in March. Nothing indicates now that the Arab League will even discuss the Arab boycott. Even the Gulf Cooperation Council states, which, as we heard, have lifted the secondary and tertiary boycott, have said that the primary boycott will continue. The report is absolutely baseless.

I would like every Arab citizen to know that the Arab boycott was begun because Israel encroached on Arab territory, displaced Arab citizens, and deprived them of their rights. This boycott will continue until the encroachment ends and when Arab rights and lands return to their owners. Only then will the boycott end. The boycott will continue as long as Arab rights and lands have not been restored. [end recording]

Egyptian-Libyan Deal Said Behind al-Kikhya Abduction

NC0610111994 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Security coordination between Egypt and Libya reached its climax when the Egyptian security authorities arrested Hisham Abazah, a leading al-Jihad Organization official, at the al-Sallum border post between the two countries.

The Libyan authorities advised the Egyptian Government that Abazah was leaving Libyan territory across this land border point. The Egyptians subsequently arrested him.

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According to a political-security deal between Egypt and Libya, the Egyptian authorities made it easy for Libyan intelligence personnel to kidnap former Libyan Foreign Minister [and opposition figure] Dr. Mansur al-Kikhya in Alexandria. In return the Libyans handed the Egyptian authorities lists of members of the Egyptian Islamist groups wanted in connection with violent attacks in Egypt. The lists provided information on these people's movements and the dates of their planned return to Egypt.

Palestinian Affairs

PA Official on Dispute With Israelis Over Elections

NC0710074194 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, a member of the Palestinian Authority, PA, in Ramallah, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Miliji] Discussing war and peace, we must touch on the political settlement between the Palestinians and the Israelis. A round of negotiations was recently held in Cairo concerning elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We also learned that there are problems between you and the Israelis.

[Al-Tarifi] As you know, we have completed an initial stage, the so-called Gaza and Jericho phase. We also completed negotiations on the early transfer of power. We must now complete our negotiations with the Israeli Government on the transition period. Many countries, particularly the foreigners [as heard], had doubts about the Palestinian position on elections.

[Al-Miliji] What is the main point of dispute between the Israelis and yourselves regarding the issue of elections or the holding of elections?

[Al-Tarifi] We insist that the elections must begin with the election of a Palestinian legislative council. The council must be made up of about 100 members. This means that the Palestine National Council seats must be filled through elections.

The Israeli side says that the Palestinians must elect 25 members. This is the dispute between us. The Israeli side proposes that the factions opposing the peace process should not take part in the elections. But we insist that the elections must be general and comprehensive and that any Palestinian can nominate himself. We also insist that the rule must ultimately belong to the people. As a Palestinian Authority, we believe the agreement is binding upon the Palestinian people, upon everyone. I hope these differences will be overcome during negotiations, God willing.

[Al-Miliji] Thank you.

[Al-Tarifi] You are welcome.

Opposition To Participate in Municipal Elections

TA0310161294 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 16

[Report by Sa'id 'Iyad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bethlehem, QUDS PRESS—A senior Fatah official said yesterday that the Palestinian opposition factions have informed Fatah that they intend to participate in any municipal elections that are held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Fatah Secretary Marwan al-Barghuthi told QUDS PRESS that "the Palestinian opposition forces have officially informed Fatah of their agreement to participate in municipal and village council elections that are expected to be held within the next few weeks."

Al-Barghuthi, who is deputy head of Fatah in the West Bank, added that "dialogue is continuing with the Palestinian opposition forces regarding their participation in general elections." He stressed that Fatah, which is the largest PLO faction, "is struggling and endeavoring to have the general elections held on the predetermined date." [passage omitted]

Opposition Suspends Contacts on Gaza Councils

TA0610121294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian opposition is suspending its contacts with the Palestinian Authority on setting up municipal and rural councils in the Gaza Strip. The opposition says this is in protest over the latest arrests of its members from the Islamic Jihad and the Democratic Front of Nayif Hawatimah. Recently, the opponents to the PLO's agreement with Israel had agreed to talk with the Palestinian Authority about the councils.

A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the West Bank charges that Israel's demand that the Palestinian opposition not participate in the elections is blackmail. Shaykh Jamil Hamami also says this is flagrant intervention in the Palestinians' internal affairs.

PFLP-GC Vows Continued Armed Struggle

JN0610214794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Oct 94

[Statement issued by the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Committee of the PFLP-GC held an extraordinary meeting 3-4 October 1994, which was called the session of Jerusalem. It discussed the political events and developments

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resulting from the capitulationist and humiliating Oslo-Cairo agreements which pose serious threats to our entire national cause and to our people and our Arab and Islamic nation's past, present, and future.

The Central Committee studied these events and developments, and reviewed the march of capitulation led by 'Arafat and his clique which offered successive concessions, beginning with the Oslo-Cairo agreements that humiliated our people and our Arab and Islamic nation, and which also entrenched the Zionist entity and its settlements on 90 percent of Palestine's historic land, thus relinquishing the rights of our people and our Arab and Islamic nation with regard to Jerusalem—city, holy places, and symbolic representation.

These agreements also relinquished our Palestinian people's right to repatriation. This right was emphasized by all resolutions of international legitimacy and human rights.

Through the Oslo-Cairo agreements, 'Arafat's leadership also relinquished the rights of those who were displaced from the Palestinian [West] Bank and Gaza Strip regarding the return to their homes, cities, and villages. Meanwhile, these agreements granted legitimacy to the Zionist settlements which were established on these people's lands and property which were usurped during the 1967 Zionist occupation.

The Central Committee studied in detail the role which 'Arafat's capitulationist leadership agreed to play through these agreements in order to promote the Zionist entity and all its schemes. These schemes aim to dominate both the great capabilities of our Arab homeland and its human and material resources.

The Central Committee also noted with great concern the events and developments resulting from the accelerating agreements between the Zionist entity and Jordan. These agreements constitute a submission to, and are in full agreement with, the Zionist schemes against our Palestinian and Jordanian people and our Arab and Islamic nation. While condemning these agreements, the Central Committee warns that our people will not agree to promote the Zionist entity or its subversive objectives and interests whether in our Arab homeland or against our Islamic nation.

The Central Committee also discussed the announcement by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states on lifting the secondary and tertiary boycott of the Zionist enemy. It studied this continued collapse in the Arab body, beginning with Morocco and including Tunisia and the GCC states. While condemning the positions and moves of this important part of the Arab homeland, the Central Committee calls on the masses of our Arab and Islamic nation to stand fast and continue boycotting the Zionist enemy by all appropriate means.

This notorious announcement by the GCC states constitutes a subversive penetration of the great Arab wall and the Islamic wall that supports the Arabs' strength and their continued steadfastness.

While reemphasizing the need to activate the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] and implement the required programs in order to confront both the self-rule and the conspiracy of liquidating the entire Palestine question, the Central Committee calls on all APF forces to shoulder their responsibilities at this turning point, which is witnessing a threat unparalleled throughout this nation's history.

While solemnly greeting our steadfast kinsfolk in the occupied homeland, who made the glory of the great popular intifadah, the Central Committee stresses the need to continue this intifadah with all possible means of support. It also stresses our adherence to the continued armed struggle against the Zionist enemy as well as our rejection of any attempt to change or annul the Palestinian National Charter or any of its articles.

The Central Committee calls on our Arab and Islamic nation to be more steadfast before all schemes designed to undermine the nation's interests and future. It asserts that despite the fact that the recent local and world events and developments feature the U.S. monopoly of strength and hegemony, this fact is not a permanent reality that cannot change or that cannot be weakened or altered. There are signs in the history of mankind that such a power will inevitably collapse, as was demonstrated by the laws of history and justice which confirmed the triumph of peoples and their liberation forces.

The Central Committee highly appreciates the steadfastness of Syria's leadership and people in the face of blackmail and pressures against Syria being made by various Zionist and U.S. parties. It greets the Libyan masses and their pan-Arab leadership which remain steadfast before the siege and the imperialist-Zionist blackmail and which still adhere to their honorable pan-Arab position and to supporting the Palestine question.

The Central Committee also congratulates the Yemeni people and leadership on preserving and defending Yemeni unity, wishing Yemen stability, so it can play its role in the pan-Arab struggle.

The Central Committee demands lifting the blockade imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people, so they can join their Arab nation's struggle against the Zionist and imperialist U.S. enemy. It also greets the Islamic Republic of Iran for the steadfastness of its leadership and people before the U.S. siege and Zionist blackmail.

The Central Committee vehemently condemns the arrests of the honorable Palestinian strugglers at the hands of the so-called self-rule police, who are agents working for the enemy and who are also the enemy's collapsing henchmen, noting that the Palestinian strugglers are confronting the Zionist enemy and its settlements. Glory and immortality to the martyrs of our

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people and our Arab and Islamic nation. We will adhere to our pledge. It is a revolution until the land and man are liberated.

DFLP Leader Condemns 'Arafat at News Conference

JN0610204394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], said at a news conference in Damascus today that the Front will continue its struggle inside the Gaza Strip of whose area the Israeli army and the settlements occupy 40 percent. Hawatimah said the Front's stand is substantiated by the 29 September attacks on the settlements by the Front's military wing units, the Red Star.

At his news conference, Hawatimah said that the DFLP, which opposes the autonomy agreements, is also opposed to joining the Palestinian Authority and to participation in the political administration of the limited autonomous authority, adding that 45 DFLP leaders and cadres are now in the autonomy jails, the jails of 'Arafat's authority, as he put it. Hawatimah also emphasized his intention to boycott the autonomous council's elections.

Hawatimah ruled out any meeting between him and 'Arafat, accusing the latter of destroying all the bridges of dialogue between him and the democratic forces and of ruining the PLO coalition and establishments.

Finally, Hawatimah said that the DFLP struggles for the Palestinian people's self-determination at the side of the State of Israel, calling for fresh peace negotiations based on legitimate international resolutions; namely, an independent Palestinian state by the side of the State of Israel.

Islamic Jihad Gaza Rally Denounces Oslo Agreement

TA0610191194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Gaza this afternooon, Islamic Jihad held a mass rally against the Oslo agreement and the concept of autonomy. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the rally received a permit from the Palestinian police, who were present at the scene.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, leader of the Gaza chapter of the Islamic Jihad, called for the release of all the Islamic Jihad activists detained by the Palestinian police in the wake of the attack on the Morag junction a montn ago, in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was killed.

When the rally ended, the participants marched to the al-Shaja'iyah cemetery carrying placards denouncing the Oslo agreement.

PFA Seen Fragmenting Into Looser Bilateral Arrangements

MM0710095594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Oct 94 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Union Between the Popular Front and the Democratic Front Ends the Story of the '10 Factions' Alliance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—It seems that the links which had joined the organizations of the "Palestinian Forces Alliance" [PFA] opposed to the PLO-Israel peace agreement have now disappeared with no real link left between them, giving way to a possibility of some kind of bilateral alliances between the Islamists and between the leftists subject basically to the common interests of these two trends in the alliance.

More than one Palestinian leading figure agree that the phase through which the PFA is passing "is worse than any other in the past" as the leaders and representatives of the 10 organizations no longer hold their regular meetings which, in the past, were held monthly and in cases of emergency. Contacts between them are now rare. The latest bilateral meetings were held in Libya on the sidelines of the 1 September revolution anniversary celebrations, and contrary to their expectations, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi did not provide any material aid for those opposed to the peace process.

A Palestinian leading figure has told AL-HAYAH that the PFA "has not held any official meetings at leaders level for several months because of the differences which appeared regarding a mechanism for political and military action inside the territories." He added that "the public differences of opinion we heard about do not reflect the real disagreements. Every faction differs with the other on fundamental matters related to their strategic or tactical concepts of the Palestinian situation, particularly as some of them have been flirting with the Palestinian Authority [PA] and have not broken off all links with the Oslo agreement and the institutions resulting from it."

Furthermore, the Popular [Front for the Liberation of Palestine] [PFLP] and the Democratic [Front for the Liberation of Palestine] [DFLP] have agreed to let their members go to Gaza on the lists of the institutions or the police, and they will ultimately be getting their orders from the PA and its head Yasir 'Arafat, "which contradicts their political position rejecting the agreement, even though they justify that by saying that the return to the homeland is everyone's right that is not determined by 'Arafat or his Authority." The DFLP leaders try to deny any link with the autonomous government and deny flirting with it. They point to the large-scale arrest campaign affecting 52 DFLP members in Gaza. DFLP officials maintain that the campaign confirms "serious differences with the Authority."

With the collapse of collective action or bloc-framework opposition to the Oslo agreement, bilateral action and

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front-framework union between the PFLP and the DFLP has emerged and has been approved by the PFLP congress and then by the DFLP congress. According to DFLP sources, the [union] deal is likely to be in the form of "a two-party front, with one political bureau and one secretary general." The sources emphasize that all prerequisites for such a union are available "and that includes the urgent national need, particularly as we intend to merge the military and political institutions on the basis of the national salvation program" announced by the front two months ago.

Palestinian sources attribute the attempt to unite once again, despite the failure of the previous experience in the eighties, to the fact that both sides are aware of the "threat" posed in the Palestinian arena by the Islamic trend which has "pulled the rug from under the feet of the Palestinian leftist trends and flirted with the National Authority, which made many people conclude that it was in control." They add that although there is no official alliance between the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad which is led by Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the two are not far from "political understanding" on current Palestinian issues such as the elections and the type of military action against the Israeli forces.

As regards the six other Palestinian organizations of the alliance, their options seem to be more difficult because they have no strong presence inside the territories and because their position abroad requires political caution as Arab-Israeli peace negotiations continue.

Sha'th Urges Prisoners' Release From Israeli Prisons

JN0410160594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Fatah prisoners in Israeli prisons have said that they will shortly go on hunger strike, described as strategic, to pressure the government of Yitzhaq Rabin into releasing them. The prisoners' statement said that Israel wants to hold Palestinian prisoners as hostages of peace by insisting on a policy conflicting with the new facts on the ground.

In another development, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, condemned the Israeli procrastination in releasing the Palestinian prisoners. He said that this is an Israeli extortion tool to coerce the Palestinian leadership into bartering collaborators for prisoners. It is also an Israeli attempt to delay early empowerment in the West Bank.

In an open dialogue on the Palestinian entity now and in the future, Sha'th said that the prisoners' issue will remain a Palestinian-Israeli point of contention. He added that the National Authority will accept nothing short of releasing all Palestinian prisoners.

In another context, Sha'th said that Israel's West Bank settlements will remain a dagger in the heart, adding that the Israelis intend to remain in the Gaza settlements so that the Palestinians will not call for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank settlements. He said the number of Israeli settlers in the Gaza settlements decreased following the signing of the peace agreement with the PLO.

Sha'th Views Progress of Authority

TA0610184594 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], was interviewed at his office two days ago by AL-NAHAR correspondents Khamis al-Turk and Muhammad al-'Ajlah. The talk dwelt with the work of the ministry and its performance during the past few months in the wake of the establishment of the PNA in Gaza and Jericho, since the ministry served as the PNA's nerve center.

Sha'th began by discussing the political aspect in which his ministry and its team are involved—negotiations with the Israelis, which is taking a great deal of the ministry's time.

Dr. Sha'th explained that the aim of continuing the negotiations with the Israeli delegation is to expand Palestinian authority in the West Bank and complete what has not been agreed on with regard to Gaza and Jericho. This is so Gaza and Jericho will not become the beginning and the end, but the beginning for realizing the Palestinian dream in the rest of Palestine and achieving a just peace according to the Declaration of Principles agreed on in Oslo and signed in Washington. Hence, we were competing with the Israelis on the pace for extending this agreement and placing it in the service of Palestinian human beings. In return, there were forces in Israel and elsewhere who were betting that we would stop at Gaza and Jericho.

Minister Sha'th added: I believe we have succeeded in moving toward completing implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Release of the prisoners and control over the crossings were the most important obstacles, but we managed to implement a major part of the agreement. The Palestinian Authority and police took over in Gaza and Jericho, and then that authority was extended to the sphere of education in the West Bank and will soon expand there—in accordance with the early empowerment agreement—to the spheres of health, culture, youth and sport, social affairs, planning, international relations, tourism, and direct and indirect taxes. I believe this will happen very shortly, as soon as the donors' funds become available.

Furthermore, we succeeded in having the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee continue operating in order to serve as a mechanism for resolving the problems that we face. We devoted attention to the entry and funding of

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the Palestinian police force, to the entry of PNA personnel, and to activating the issue of the repatriation of displaced Palestinians to Palestine. The main obstacle in this regard was the disagreement that arose with Jordan over the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem. This matter delayed Jordan's participation in the quadripartite committee for the repatriation of the displaced. This committee is the framework stipulated by the agreement for the return of 8,600 displaced Palestinians to the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the interim period.

However, within framework of our cooperation with Jordan, we are trying to get Jordan to participate again in this committee so that the effort for the repatriation of the displaced will continue. We have also reached agreement with the Israelis on the international forces that will set up and train the Palestinian police and that will monitor implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Together with President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], I visited the countries that will be invited to participate in the international force. I believe that, this too, will take place during the next few days.

Regarding the crossings, Dr. Sha'th noted that he and his ministry's team discussed the details of the agreement on the crossings, which have run into 61 pages. First the details were one page, then it increased to 10 pages in the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and now it is 61 pages. Still, this does not include the entire issue of the crossings, because it is sensitive and complex. The agreement now is with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Agreement has been reached on almost everything and now the Israeli cabinet must ratify it.

As for us, the PNA cabinet has approved the agreement and we are prepared to sign it as soon as the Israeli negotiators are given the green light by their superiors. The Israeli side is responsible for any delay now. Our 200-man team is ready to take over the crossings and handle issues relating to passports, security, police duty, customs, agriculture, veterinary work, agricultural inspection, health, and services. As far as we are concerned, everything is ready.

Dr. Sha'th added: When we take over the crossings, the Egged Bus Company, which is now carrying passengers to and from Rafah will be replaced. We will issue tenders for a new bus company. We will gradually allow taxis to work this route. Afterward, the crossings will be open to cars to go to Egypt. We will sign a parallel agreement with Israel and Egypt as well as with Jordan. All the taxis will be run by Palestinians and Arabs only.

Also for the coming stage, we have obtained the Israeli side's consent for buses to travel directly from Gaza to Cairo and from Gaza and Jericho to Amman. Naturally, this will be with the agreement of the Jordanian and Egyptian sides. The Egyptian side has agreed that as soon as the crossings agreement is finalized and signed, buses will at first carry passengers directly from Gaza to Cairo and later to Amman.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th said: Negotiations now are focusing on the interim agreement in the West Bank. The talks over the elections which began in Cairo on 3 October are part of the tasks of the negotiating delegation that I lead. My ministry's staff, in addition to the PLO negotiating team headed by Hasan 'Asfur, provides all the necessary support, research, and services to this delegation. As soon as we receive the Israeli reaction, we will return to the integral talks which I will head. Those talks will include the elections committee, the committee for the redeployment of Israeli forces and the entry of the Palestinian police force, the committee for the transfer of the rest of powers and authority in the West Bank to the PNA, and the legal committee. Just as with the case in Gaza and Jericho, these four committees will serve as the mechanism for reaching a complete interim agreement, which as we hope and wish will be finalized before the end of this year with the holding of comprehensive legislative elections, followed by municipal elections everywhere.

Dr. Sha'th said that the Palestinian side expects the Israelis to give an official response to the papers that were presented to them regarding the elections, which include statistics, the need to carry out field studies to determine the location of polling stations, and the electoral law that will be observed.

Dr. Sha'th added: There will be a parallel committee dealing with the withdrawal of Israeli forces. There will be no elections until this committee succeeds in realizing Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian towns, villages, and population centers in the West Bank. This is absolutely clear in the agreement. That should have taken place on 13 July, but Israeli procrastination prevented this from happening. However, the Israelis have now realized that the peace process cannot move forward except through withdrawal. Therefore, we are currently hearing comments such as those by Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq to the effect that the Israeli Army is reviewing the necessary security measures upon the withdrawal of Israeli forces from West Bank towns and villages. In return, we are hearing statements by Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal who doubts whether the withdrawal of Israeli forces will lead to the withdrawal of the Israeli police. In other words, he acknowledges that the military forces will be pulled out, but believes that the withdrawal of the police forces might be delayed despite the fact that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is clear. It stipulates that the Israeli police is part of the Israeli military forces and that any withdrawal is not confined only to the Army but involves all the Israeli military establishment. Otherwise, this police would be considered a civilian police, and this means annexation, which is contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention. The Israelis have not stated officially that they have annexed the West Bank to Israel.

Al-Rujub Denies Dismissal as Security Chief

MM0610151694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Oct 94 p 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Official in Charge of Palestinian Preventive Security Denies Dismissal From His Post, Expulsion to Cairo"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jibril al-Rujub, official in charge of Palestinian preventive security in Jericho, has denied that he has been dismissed from his post on orders from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Al-Rujub told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from his office in Jericho that "these rumors are absolutely baseless."

The report has also been denied by a Fatah Central Committee member who asked to remain anonymous. He said that he has not heard of such a decision. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the official ruled out that 'Arafat would embark on such a step, since he relies heavily on al-Rujub in what he termed the relations of coordination with the other side [Israel].

For his part, Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian police, declined to deny or confirm the report. He said that "we have no official notifications in this connection. If there was a decision, it would not have remained a secret." Fatah sources in the Jordanian capital said yesterday that 'Arafat dismissed al-Rujub from his post and asked him to leave the self-rule area. The sources said that al-Rujub is in Cairo, where he is spending what they termed a "compulsory rest period." The sources attributed 'Arafat's decision to what they termed secrets of the conflict among Palestinian security services, especially in Fatah, which is responsible for implementing the agreements concluded with the Israelis.

Al-Rujub added that he will travel to Cairo today en route to Vienna, where he will have a hearing aid fitted. He said that he will spend some time in the Egyptian capital to follow up the training of a group of Palestinian security men there. He said: I will return to Jericho next Thursday.

Gaza Commander Arrested, Suspected of Taking Bribes

TA0610175794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the arrest of General Mahmud Abu-Marzuq, the civil defense commander of the Gaza Strip, on suspicion of accepting bribes. The Palestinian security service arrested Abu-Marzuq and took him to Gaza's central prison for questioning.

Nabulus Said To Begin Operating Police Unit

TA0410064094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabulus Municipality will begin operating a police unit whose members were trained with the Jericho police. The policemen will direct traffic and patrol the streets at night. Ghassan al-Shak'ah, the acting mayor of Nabulus, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the police operation in Nabulus was approved by Israel. PLO officials note that if the police unit in Nabulus succeeds in its mission other municipalities in the territories will begin operating police forces.

Israeli Sources: No Approval Yet for Nabulus Police

TA0410113694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hebron Municipality also plans to start operating an urban police force in the town. Kamal Duwayk, a Hebron councilman, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the city council decided to set up an urban police force last week and that candidates are now being recruited to undergo training.

Seventy-five graduates of the police training course, which ended in Jericho yesterday, arrived in Nabulus today. They are supposed to form a skeleton urban police force which will receive its orders from the mayor. Another 75 inhabitants of Nabulus will go to Jericho within the next few days to undergo training.

Meanwhile, Israeli security sources say that no approval has been given as yet to operate an urban police force in Nabulus. Nevertheless, Acting Mayor Ghassan al-Shak'ah says he received permission to use policemen to direct traffic and do night watch in accordance with Jordanian law.

Hamas Leader on 'Disagreements' Among Security Bodies

MM0410092694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Hamas Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Major Disagreements Among Security Services"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in the Palestinian self-rule area, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his movement still has not received a reply to the proposal it submitted to Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, about ways of avoiding incidents similar to the Rafah incident in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the death of a Palestinian police officer and the wounding of two Hamas members.

Dr. al-Zahhar attributed the failure to reply to the proposal as promised by 'Arafat to the major disagreements among the various security services within the Palestinian Authority.

He said that "the cause of the failure to reply is the numerous security services and their conflicting interests." He added: "Disagreements among these services are severe and interacting under the surface, and every party is trying to eliminate the other." He went on: "To conceal these disagreements which emerge on the surface from time to time, they try to drag Hamas into this conflict. What happened in Rafah is an example." [passage omitted]

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Hamas Issues Statement Criticizing "Arafat Authority'

JN0110213994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement urging the 'Arafat authority to identify murderers and send them to court. It warned against the continuation of the 'Arafat security organs' disregard for our people's lives.

In its statement, Hamas said it found it strange that the victim is being treated as a transgressor. It noted the continued confinement of struggler Muhammad Abu-Shammalah at the al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza, and his being banned from seeing relatives. Hamas also condemned the statements made by Nasr Yusuf [chief of Gaza security], and urged him to halt his provocative statements.

Editorial Assails Opposition, Calls For Dialogue

TA0410164294 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Causing Embarrassment Is Rejected, Dialogue Is Required]

[FBIS Translated Text] The actions by some Palestinian opposition factions are, above all, aimed at embarrassing Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the National Authority, distracting the Palestinian leadership from the battle of construction and renewal, and restraining it from drawing up the appropriate plans for confronting challenges and obstacles.

Carrying out a military operation here and another one there will change nothing in the new formulations and the laws of the new era that has begun. These operations pose a danger to the march undertaken by a people whose leadership, backed by the majority, agreed to a political solution. The opposition is aware that the majority of the people support the peace process in its two stages. It is this majority that is giving power to its leadership so that it can overcome the challenges and remove the obstacles that the Israeli side is placing before the peace process and the march toward revival and development.

As long as this is the case, why does the opposition insist on disturbing and obstructing? Why does it insist on embarrassing the National Authority and why does it not try to express its views by engaging in dialogue and presenting its positions?

In all sincerity and frankness, this obstinacy by the opposition is not aimed as much at expelling the Israeli forces as it is at sabotaging the work of Yasir 'Arafat and the National Authority, which he heads, in order to foil the development process and force Israel to back down from the agreement that it signed with the Palestinian side. Israel wants to do so and is constantly seeking to delay the agreement's implementation.

The opposition in the Palestinian arena is called upon to obey the laws, especially regarding those individuals who agreed to return, because they know what is taking place in this arena and are aware of the agreement and its meaning and articles.

As long as the opposition forces persist in rejecting the policy of dialogue and do not stop embarrassing the National Authority, this authority has the right to apply the law, maintain order, be confrontational in order to safeguard what it committed itself to and signed. It is obliged to be confrontational so that the process does not stop.

However, if the opposition ceases the policy of causing embarrassment, resorts to dialogue, and presents its positions to the Palestinian street, we will then oppose any suppressive step by the National Authority.

This is a call for realizing the seriousness of the stage. It is essential for every person and party to bear his responsibilities.

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Algeria

Dembri on Dialogue With FIS, Regional Issues

MM0610141494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dirgham] It is said that the state is speaking two languages: pursuing a hard-line policy sometimes and dialogue at other times. Do you agree with this claim?

[Dembri] Of course not. That is untrue. Because the state is pursuing a clear policy which was officially declared in a statement issued by the head of state himself, namely when he launched the new phase of dialogue. The statement stipulated, first, the need for national consensus over Algerian society's crucial issues and future horizons, in addition to the need to define the priorities. So there is commitment to the constitutional constants, including the law, basic freedoms, pluralism, rotation of power, and the nonuse of force to stay in or reach power. These constants will not be touched in the dialogue. It is necessary that all the parties concerned contribute to restoring calm and civil peace.

Second, an agenda for the dialogue. This agenda is open. There are constants which cannot be touched, and there is an open agenda. It also seems to me that the door is open to anyone adhering to Algerian patriotism to contribute calmly to bringing an end to violent actions and terrorism. That is required from all.

[Dirgham] But it is said that President Zeroual is calling for a dialogue while a military wing is rejecting it.

[Dembri] I believe that the levels should not be confused.

[Dirgham] What are the government's chances of survival if the dialogue with the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] succeeds and the latter joins the government?

[Dembri] It has nothing to do with any party's entry (into government). There is a dialogue which has constants that cannot be touched and an open agenda. President Zeroual said that anything can be included on the agenda, including the participation of the parties involved in the dialogue in preparing for the transitional phase and running it.

[Dirgham] With whom are you holding the dialogue on the Islamic scene, which is not united?

[Dembri] The dialogue is conducted with all Algeria's sincere sons, with the parties and reputable national figures in our country. This has been agreed since the first national dialogue conference held in January. With regard to the Islamic tendency, there are parties participating in the dialogue like HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] and Ennahda. And there are other parties which probably have not participated yet. But there is a good start as a result of the letter dated 23 August, which includes accepting the constitutional constants and securing a suitable atmosphere in order to engage in the dialogue. As far as we are concerned, these are auspicious signs.

[Dirgham] Do you believe that the Islamic parties have to unify their position before a dialogue can begin with them?

[Dembri] That is left to the political groups themselves and depends on the way they are organized: Are they organized within the framework of a party or a certain formation, or are they asking to participate individually in the dialogue?

[Dirgham] How do you view the development of the dialogue process?

[Dembri] Four rounds of dialogue have been held so far. And the dialogue is continuing now in the form of bilateral meetings between the parties and the presidency. The results will emerge in a multilateral meeting to determine the horizons of national consensus over the transitional phase and the future horizons for building the new Algerian society. This is the policy within which we should remain. Because the official authority is not facing opposition. The authority is running the affairs of the state and the nation. And there are parties and a political class that are required to participate in defining national consensus.

[Dirgham] Are you optimistic?

[Dembri] I have expressed my optimism from the outset. And it seems to me that there is political intelligence, adherence to patriotism, and love for the homeland in our country. All this could lead us to very positive results soon.

[Dirgham] Did you discuss with the Americans the issue of Anouar Haddam's activities in the United States?

[Dembri] We discuss with the Americans everything concerning bilateral relations. We spoke to U.S. authorities about the prospects for the dialogue and the various reforms the Algerian state is currently making. Other Algerian affairs are dealt with in Algeria. This matter is open to all Algeria. Algeria—state and society—is not seeking any foreign interference in its internal affairs, or even advice.

[Dirgham] Did you ask the Americans to stop encouraging Haddam or other Islamists?

[Dembri] No comment.

[Dirgham] What about the French-U.S. gravitation vis-a-vis Algeria? What is your opinion of these two positions?

[Dembri] We are an independent state, and the dialogue process in our country is purely an Algerian achievement. All we are asking from states is not to interfere in

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Algerian internal affairs. This is a general principle. Conflicting (French-U.S.) statements are made from time to time, but we pay no attention to that.

[Dirgham] Some Algerians believe that the U.S. position calling for dialogue and welcoming and embracing Haddam has encouraged the Islamists to follow the peaceful solution path. What is your opinion?

[Dembri] The dialogue line appeared in Algeria and was then supported by foreign states, but what matters to us is that there should be a break with past behavior and support for the economic reforms. Apart from that, what happens in Algeria only concerns the Algerians.

[Dirgham] Stability is necessary for economic reform....

[Dembri] Yes, but there are many causes of the crisis in our country. That is why it is necessary to overcome all the causes of that crisis.

[Dirgham] Morocco has accused Algerian intelligence of training Moroccans and sending them to Morocco. What is behind that charge?

[Dembri] The Algerian Government's statement expressed our astonishment at that charge because it is unfounded. The party meant by it was deposed six years ago. It seems to me that the Moroccan Interior Ministry has made five statements on the causes of what happened at the Marrakech Hotel, and every time there was a new version. We found that strange. We want here to again condemn the repressive practices of the Moroccan police and royal gendarmarie against Algerian nationals in Morocco. We are still waiting for the official Moroccan report which we requested on 26 August.

[Dirgham] How would you describe your relations with Morocco?

[Dembri] Matters are clear as far as we are concerned. We insist on Maghreb unity as whole. That is a strategic choice not a tactical plan. Bilateral relations with Morocco were good until the visa was unilaterally imposed on the Algerians, on Algerian nationals and on foreigners of Algerian origin. This is unusual in international relations.

[Dirgham] What is your position on the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] question?

[Dembri] Algeria's position has been known for 20 years and it has not changed in essence.

[Dirgham] Algeria holds the view that if extremism or the Islamists gained control of Algeria, they would naturally control the rest of the Arab Maghreb. Do you get any response when you submit that view to the people concerned in the region?

[Dembri] It seems to me that there is a problem in the Arab and Islamic worlds. The points you have mentioned now are listed on the agenda of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. We should all focus on building pluralistic democracy with respect for the components of the national identity and should keep Islam out of the political argument. That is very important to us.

[Dirgham] Let us go to the question of U.S. and French polarization, because their advice is listened to....

[Dembri] I repeat, the Algerian Government's policies are known and clear and not subject to the control of any other state. We are independent and we talk to the Algerian people. We do not depart from that framework. As regards other attitudes and advice, we pay no attention to them. We expect every foreign party to deal with us officially and to understand the essence of the Algerian reforms. Any statement along these lines would be welcomed by us, of course.

[Dirgham] Are you willing to allow the Parliamentary Mission delegation to return?

[Dembri] I only read about the mission's request this morning. I have no more information on it, but the answer could come from the Algerian authorities as soon as possible.

[Dirgham] Would you guarantee the delegation's safety if it went to Algeria?

[Dembri] The state's Presidency guarantees everyone who officially participates in the dialogue the right of expression as well as everything necessary.

[Dirgham] It has been claimed that releasing Cheiks Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj from prison and placing them under house arrest simply meant that they were placed in a bigger prison.

[Dembri] That is an exaggeration because the messages received by the prime ministry requested transfer to residence and also requested various facilities (for the cheiks) to make it possible for the political figures of that trend [FIS] to hold consultations and coordinate. It seems to me that these were official requests and that they were tackled officially.

[Dirgham] Do you believe that they will really be able to carry out the necessary activity, at the Islamic level for instance, that would enable them to formulate a position on the question of dialogue?

[Dembri] That requires no comment from me because each party has a right to express its position and publish statements. If there is a difficulty, then it is up to them (the cheiks) to say so.

[Dirgham] Why place them under house arrest?

[Dembri] To enable those figures to contact whoever they want.

[Dirgham] Regarding the Berber, will you permit the teaching of the Thamazighth language?

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[Dembri] In the past few days the prime minister announced the formation of a committee to study all aspects of that issue, especially the aspect of education.

[Dirgham] Do you fear that the Berber issue might divide the country?

[Dembri] No, these are exaggerations, generally by the foreign media. Algeria is united and unifying.

[Dirgham] What is the government's strategy on the issues of the Berbers and the Islamists?

[Dembri] The government's strategy is based on the consolidation of democratic culture in Algeria. If we accept the constant constitutional principles, including pluralism, differences and respect for opinions, nationalism, renunciation of violence, and power alternation, it seems to me that all views would be acceptable in that context.

[Dirgham] Which is more dangerous to Algeria, the extremist Berber trend or the extremist Islamic trend?

[Dembri] That classification is strange to us. It seems to us that Islam is innocent in Algeria, and viewing Berberism as an ideology is unfounded.

[Dirgham] As a nationality not as an ideology.

[Dembri] All the Algerians love their homeland. That is the hope that will lead us to the new Algerian society.

[Dirgham] Algeria had previously accused Sudan and Iran of trying to interfere in its internal affairs. About a month ago, President Zeroual met in Tripoli with the Sudanese president. What were the results of that meeting? What is the state of Algeria's relations with Iran? And does Algeria consider Egypt a model for containing extremism?

[Dembri] A meeting did take place in Tripoli between President Zeroual and President 'Umar al-Bashir. The gist of the meeting was given in 'Umar al-Bashir's statement to Algerian television on coming out of the president's headquarters. He first expressed Sudan's love for Algeria and said that it did not interfere in Algerian internal affairs and wished to have calm relations with Algeria. We are studying that file to determine what measures could be taken, as soon as possible, to reconsider our relations. As regards Iran, so far there is nothing to report.

[Dirgham] You mean there is no improvement in relations?

[Dembri] There is no improvement.

[Dirgham] What about Egypt as a model to be followed by Algeria in tackling the crisis?

[Dembri] There is exchange of views and coordination with Egypt and, of course, with all the Arab states because the Arab homeland in general has a problem with pluralism. That has to be studied. At the same time, we all consider Islam as the religion of the state. We should all at all political levels examine ways of upholding these principles and keeping them from causing differences between us.

French National Missing, Believed Abducted

MM0710102194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish: "French National Abducted in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—Well-informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a French national has disappeared in Algeria since last Sunday-Monday night [2-3 October], and there is a prevalent belief that he has been abducted, since his car was found on Monday near the city of Meftah, east of the Algerian capital.

This area is considered to be the main stronghold of the armed fundamentalist organizations, especially the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. It was said that the Omani and Yemeni ambassadors were abducted in this area.

According to the sources, the abducted French national is working for an establishment operating in Algeria. The issue has been surrounded with secrecy from the Algerian and French sides and has not been announced yet. But France has decided to abolish the ballot centers allocated to the French community in Algeria in the capital, Annaba, and Oran. This was published in the official gazette the day before yesterday, Wednesday. The decision was attributed to security considerations in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile [Islamic] Salvation Front sources have confirmed the truth of the appointment of Abou Khalil Mahfoud as amir of the GIA to succeed Abou Abdallah Ahmed. The sources said that the Group's new leader is a resident of one of the capital's districts. They added that the new amir was unknown on the scene before, and that his appointment came as a surprise.

Egypt

Defense Minister on Forces' Role, World Developments

NC0710101894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, Armed Forces commander in chief and minister of defense, has affirmed that there will be no military maneuvers or joint training with Israel. He also affirmed that reports of plans for joint training with Israel are untrue.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM conducted by the paper's Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi', Tantawi said joint training with Arab and foreign countries

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is conducted according to a prepared and coordinated plan with these countries to serve Egypt's national security. He said the current peace cannot be preserved without a force able to deter anyone who seeks to harm Egypt's national security.

He explained that Egyptian-U.S. military relations are progressing and developing constantly and rely on firm bases of understanding and mutual conviction without compromising principles. He said the U.S military aid to Egypt represents strong support for our strategic goals in developing and arming our forces. He expected these relations to develop further in line with the requirements of the new stage to establish peace and stability in the region.

Tantawi said the Armed Forces' armament plan is to open up to all countries and benefit from all military schools. He said: Our policy is clear. We are friends with everyone and ready for military cooperation with anyone as long as this achieves our interests and national security.

The defense minister commented on fast-moving world and regional developments and the transformation of world ties from conflict to detente in the past decade and whether this will affect the Armed Forces. He said it was natural for Egyptian military strategy to be in harmony with these great international changes, adding that this strategy has indeed developed to achieve Egypt's national security as a primary goal.

Tantawi commented on developing the strategic operations center and the Armed Forces' command and control mechanism. He said the Armed Forces have come a long way in introducing mechanized command and control systems to the Air Defense Corps in view of the complicated modern war techniques and the need for a great deal of very accurate information at the appropriate time to run wars and help make the right decisions.

He stressed that the Armed Forces development was not confined to training on the most modern weapons and upgrading the combat performance of the Egyptian fighter; it also sought to provide every service for the comfort of the fighter according to an integrated plan.

Commenting on his recent visit to China, he said Egypt's relations with China are old and established. He added: We have a great quantity of Eastern weapons that we regard as a national wealth. We seek to develop these weapons and prolong their lifespan and China is one of the countries that helps us in this regard. Proceeding from our policy of diversifying weapons sources, we choose modern weapons from various countries and military schools that achieve our tasks and national security.

On Egypt's participation in the UN peacekeeping forces in Angola, Somalia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said Egypt's participation and its increasing its troops in the UN peacekeeping forces are decided according to Egypt's circumstances, requirements, and strategic goals and in view of Egypt's concern to provide all the best means to make the mission of these forces a success and also to provide protection for them.

He said Egypt is always ready to look into any request from the United Nations to increase the number of Egyptian troops in the peacekeeping forces. He added that the political leadership has decided to entrust the Armed Forces with preparing groups with special training and armaments to participate in the peacekeeping forces. This, he went on, will [words indistinct] assertion of the Egyptian role in maintaining security and stability, not only in the region, but also in the world as a whole, demonstrating that Egypt's face is acceptable to all sides and that this participation is regarded as a commendation for Egyptian soldiering.

Tantawi explained that the political leadership's decision to contribute to the UN peacekeeping forces is linked with Egypt's belief in the principles of international legitimacy. No doubt, he said, Egypt's contribution to these forces reflects Egypt's influence and leading role, which is essentially based on consolidating stability and maintaining peace in various countries despite the additional burden this places on the Armed Forces.

Tantawi emphasized that the Egyptian Armed Forces' task with these UN troops is to contribute to maintaining peace and stability in the countries concerned according to the tasks assigned by the United Nations without taking sides with the parties to the internal conflict in these countries.

He affirmed that Egypt spares no effort to contribute to any formula that achieves our interests and the fraternal Arab countries' interests of security and stability out of our belief in Egypt's pivotal role toward the fraternal Arab states as a necessary element in their stability.

Tantawi said he hoped that the coming stage will witness developments in the Damascus Declaration to bring it into line with the interests of all the signatories. He stressed that the Mediterranean's security and stability represent one of [Egypt's] main goals and that Egypt does not hesitate to actively cooperate with the region's countries to guarantee this stability.

He urged all the region's countries to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty of 1972, and the Chemical Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty of 1993.

He stressed the need to give the United Nations and its agencies a role to be agreed upon to devise arrangements and a mechanism to ensure that all the region's countries are committed to implementing their pledges regarding conventional and nonconventional weapons without exception.

He commented on the significance of building over 17 military cities by the Armed Forces in various parts of

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Egypt and on whether this has any connection with these forces' defense policies. He said these cities have the status of military communities, because they secure proper accommodation for personnel, weapons, and equipment. He added that most countries have adopted military cities out of their extreme concern for military personnel's wellbeing.

He noted that these cities house the families of Armed Forces personnel so that the personnel can live near their military units and enjoy psychological and physical security, making them more productive and thereby achieving the best level of combat readiness.

On Egypt's plan to clear the Western Desert of World War II mines, Field Marshal Tantawi said the first phase of the plan ended in 1991 after clearing about 92,500 hectares, 32 percent of the mined area, and that about 8 million mines have been removed. He added that the second phase of the plan will be completed in 2006.

Morocco

Heads of Liaison Bureaus in Tel Aviv, Gaza Named

LD0610122894 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, 6 Oct (MAP)—King Hassan II appointed Wednesday [5 October] Talal Ghoufrani head of the Liaison Bureau of Morocco in Tel Aviv, says a release by the Moroccan Information Ministry.

The sovereign renewed on the occasion Morocco's attachment [words indistinct] and evolution of the Middle East peace process.

Talal Ghoufrani, 42, is a law graduate who held several senior posts at the Moroccan administration. He was in charge of technical cooperation at the General Secretariat of the agriculture department and assistant lecturer at the Rabat law school. He also served as a counsellor at the Moroccan embassies in Kenya and Iraq and represented the Kingdom in several international conferences.

Last Monday, the sovereign appointed Colonel Major Mohamed Abdesslam Sinaceur head of Morocco's Liaison Bureau in Gaza.

Morocco decided early last month to open Liaison Bureaus in Tel-Aviv and Gaza and has authorized Israel to open a similar office in Rabat.

Morocco is the first Arab country to open liaison bureaus in Gaza and Tel Aviv after the signing of the declaration of principles between Israel and the PLO in Washington last year.

Israel appointed David Dadon, who was born in Morocco, head of the Israeli Liaison Bureau in Rabat.

Cancelling Visa Requirements for Algeria Urged

LD0610130294 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oct. 06 (MAP)—Moroccan "L'IBERATION" daily called Wednesday [5 October] for the cancellation of visa requirement for Algerian nationals.

It is well understood that such a measure will not be taken only if the country's stability and security are respected, the daily in French of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP/Opposition) said. On reasons which led Morocco to require visas for Algerians entering Morocco that the daily described as "legitimate and justified response", "LIBERATION" reassures Algerian nationals that unlike what some propaganda pretends, Morocco is their country and Moroccans remain their brothers in all circumstances.

Yes, today that the sources and the instruments of the anti-Moroccan plot were discovered, today that Moroccans are reassured and that an unforgettable lesson was taught to all plotters and traitors, time has come for lifting the measure, the daily said. [sentence as received] Morocco, land of asylum, strong with its unity and safety can give another lesson by demonstrating that its generosity and tradition will never be destroyed by terrorists.

EC May Retaliate on Refusal To Issue Licenses

LD0610131194 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels, Oct. 06 (MAP)—A reliable source at the European Commission [EC] told MAP bureau here that the European Commission is envisioning to take retaliation measures against Morocco if the Kingdom persists in its refusal to issue fishing licences for European trawlers.

According to the source, the European Union is facing hard pressures from the Spanish and French lobbies and the European Commission's representative in Morocco transmitted to Moroccan authorities an oral message that the non-issuing of fishing licences for the last three months of 1994 has no legal basis.

The EC noted that Morocco failed to abide by its commitments included in the 1991 accord on fisheries between Morocco and the European Union, mainly the provision on the issuing of licences.

The commission asks Morocco to issue without further delay licences for the last three months of 1994 and warns it will take appropriate measures if the situation persists.

In Morocco, Moroccan boat owners confirmed their attachment and support to the Moroccan decision not to issue licences to European boats, according to "L'OPINION" daily.

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To assist the government, the boat owners pledge to hire all Moroccan sailors working on European boats who are fired by their European employers.

Commenting the gesture, the daily said the Moroccan boat owners show once again that they are able to shoulder their responsibility in a vital sector. The daily also invites the Moroccan Government to take into account this new element in its negotiations with the European Union by endeavoring to preserve sea resources and bring the fisheries sector out of the present crisis.

Sudan

Baridu: Envoys Expulsion From Egypt 'Unjustified'

EA0510220594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 5 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan is ready for cooperation with the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff, GATT, said Foreign Ministry's first undersecretary, 'Umar Baridu. Mr. Baridu, speaking at the Foreign Ministry's scheduled news briefing, referred to the decision taken by the Council of Ministers on 2 October, according to which the council endorsed Sudan joining the GATT.

When questioned by correspondents on Sudanese-Egyptian relations, Baridu said Sudan is working through all means to maintain strong relations with Egypt. The Sudan has adopted dialogue to solve the differences between the two countries since the very beginning, the undersecretary said, adding that the Egyptian regime rejected dialogue, a matter that forced Sudan to refer the dispute on Hala'ib for international arbitration. Sudan also accepted a call by Libyan leader Colonel Qadhdhafi for ending media campaigns between the two countries—a decision observed by all Sudanese media. Baridu indicated that the Egyptian side did not comply with Qadhdhafi's call. He described the expulsion of two Sudanese diplomats from Egypt as unjustified, saying that the two Egyptian diplomats ordered out from Sudan had targeted the security of the country, referring to the recent uncovered subversive plot.

Opposition Unionist Denies Training Guerrillas

MM0610151294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Sudanese Unionist Party Denies Training Elements To Launch Guerrilla Warfare"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—The opposition Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] denied yesterday that it has a military formation operating from the territory of any neighboring state. It also stressed its commitment to political struggle methods and its rejection of violence.

A statement issued by the DUP, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received, said that "some newspapers carried information to the effect that 3,000 oppositionists, most of them from the al-Bajah tribe in east Sudan, have joined camps on Eritrean territory in preparation for launching guerrilla warfare against the regime in Sudan." The statement said that some circles tried to "give the impression that the DUP is behind that formation."

The statement, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received in London and which was confirmed by authoritative sources from the party, added: "Throughout its long national history the DUP has always believed in the expression of opinion and relied on political struggle. It has never resorted to violence, used armed force, or engaged in fighting, out of its belief in its democratic and civilized principles and conduct."

The statement stressed that the party—on the grounds that it is concerned with east Sudan, one of its centers of influence—"would like to deny those reports completely." It said that, "proceeding from its national responsibility, it detected the sources of those reports and discovered that they appeared for the first time in a publication issued in Pakistan. It belongs to the international Islamic Jihad organization set up and sponsored by Dr. al-Turabi's front in Sudan. The objective of releasing and exaggerating these reports is to enable the Sudanese regime to prepare and find justification for continuing its attacks and pressures on Eritrea" through moves and operations carried out by the Eritrean Jihad organization opposed to Asmara.

The statement said: "While it denies all the allegations attributed to it, the DUP urges vigilance and caution as regards the escalation of the sedition the Khartoum regime is planning to export to all fraternal and friendly neighboring states."

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Bahrain

Defense Minister Receives U.S. Commander

JN0110144094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1246 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 1 Oct (WAKH)—Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of defense and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, this morning met with General J.H. Binford Peay III, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed existing relations between the two friendly countries and aspects of military cooperation and means to reinforce them as well as issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Deny Contact With Israel Over Offices

MM0610154094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Oct 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Bahrain Denies Holding Contacts With Israel Aimed at Opening Interests Offices"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, occupied Jerusalem, AL-HAYAH—Informed Bahraini sources yesterday denied any contacts between Bahrain and Israel aimed at opening offices to look after the interests of the two countries.

Israel's radio had claimed that Israel and "three Gulf states are currently holding intensive contacts for the purpose of opening offices to look after their interests." [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Need To Seek ICJ Ruling on Islands Stressed

JN0610115294 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 Oct 94

[From "The News Report" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has declared its full readiness to seek the arbitration of the International Court of Justice [ICJ] to settle its dispute with the Islamic Republic of Iran over the occupation of three islands—Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa—belonging to the UAE since the ICJ is the body in charge of settling disputes among states. In a speech to the UN General Assembly delivered by Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah, the UAE said it pledges to accept all the consequences entailed by the court's ruling, which will be based on legal evidence and documents. The following is a recording of part of the speech:

[Begin Rashid 'Abdallah recording] Mr. President, regional and international developments over the few past years have proven that radical solutions to regional disputes cannot be reached except through peaceful means based on dialogue and understanding among states and in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of the international law.

Proceeding from these facts, the UAE's policy is based on full and mutual respect for the sovereignty and independence of states, on noninterference in others' affairs, on the principle of good neighborly relations, and on peaceful coexistence. Hence, we have expressed a genuine desire for a number of years for direct negotiations with the Iranian Government in order to restore our full sovereignty over our three islands; namely, Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa, which Iran occupied militarily in 1971. We consider this occupation an illegal action that contravenes the UN Charter and international law.

My country has, from this podium and on many occasions, expressed its full readiness to settle this dispute peacefully. The UAE took the initiative in calling for serious and direct negotiations to put an end to the Iranian occupation of the three islands. This position not only stemmed from the nature of the traditional and historical relations between the two countries and the current international position on dealing with the issues of international security and peace, but is also in harmony with the bases, principles, and dictates of the noble Islamic religion and the bases of [UN] Charter and international law.

Due to Iran's failure to respond to these efforts and initiatives on the issue of the three UAE islands, the government of my country has announced its full readiness to seek the arbitration of the ICJ, considering it the body tasked with settling disputes among states. It has also pledged to accept all the consequences that may result from the court's ruling, as it will be based on legal evidence and documents.

This initiative has drawn support from the sisterly Gulf Cooperation Council states and the Arab and friendly states. In this regard, we hope that the international community will support this peaceful initiative, which is based on international legitimacy. The UAE also hopes that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reciprocate this sincere desire and respond to its serious initiative, especially since the Iranian Government has previously appealed to the ICJ and accepted its rulings in other disputed cases, which were settled in favor of Iran.

We are confident that this initiative will help create an atmosphere of stability and security in the region and boost peaceful coexistence and mutual respect among its states. This will help regional states to devote their resources and capabilities to badly needed social and economic development after years of wars and armed conflicts. [end recording]

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Yemen

Presidential Decrees Issued; Key Appointments Made

New Cabinet Named

JN0610212994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Oct 94

[Presidential Decree No. 1 of 1994 dated 6 October—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the republic, after taking cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and the president's Decree No. 3 [as heard] of the year 1994 designating a prime minister to form the government, and based on a recommendation by the brother prime minister, decrees:

Article 1: The Council of Ministers shall be formed as follows:

'Abdal-Wahhab al-Anisi as deputy prime minister.
Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani as deputy prime minister and foreign minister.
Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar as deputy prime minister and minister of industry.
'Abd-al-Qadir Bajammaj as deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development.
Brigadier General Yahya Muhammad al-Mutawakkil as minister of interior.
Engineer Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd as minister of finance.
Muhammad Salim Basindwah as minister of information.
Ahmad Musa'id Husayn as minister of transportation.
Ahmad Muhammad al-Anisi as minister of communications.
Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi as minister of culture and tourism.
Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani as minister of social security, social affairs, and labor.
'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim as minister of legal affairs and House of Representatives affairs.
Sadiq Amin Abu-Ra's as minister of civil service and administrative reform.
Faysal Bin-Shamlan as minister of oil and mineral resources.
Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zubari as minister of supply and trade.
Dr. Najib Sa'id Ghanim as minister of health.
Muhammad Hasan Dammaj as minister of local administration.
Dr. Ghalib al-Qurashi as minister of awqaf and guidance.
Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Bafadl as minister of fish resources.
'Abd-al-Wahhab Lutfi al-Daylami as minister of justice.
Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik 'Ali al-Sayyani as minister of defense.
Ahmad Salim al-Jabali as minister agriculture and water resources.
Ali Hamid Sharaf as minister of construction, housing, and urban planning.
'Abduh 'Ali al-Qudati as minister of education.
Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Rawih as minister of youth and sports.
'Abdallah Muhsin al-Akwa' as minister of electricity and water resources.

Article 2: This decree shall be effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Office on 2 Jumada al-Awwal, 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 6 October, 1992.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers

Chief of Staff Named

JN0610205094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Oct 94

[Presidential Decree No. 2 of 1994 dated 6 October—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having taken cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and Law No. 67 of 1991 on service in the Armed Forces and Security Forces; and upon the recommendation of the brother defense minister and approval of the prime minister and Council of Ministers, the president of the republic decrees:

Article 1. Brother Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah shall be appointed chief of staff.

Article 2. This decree shall be effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Office in Sanaa on 2 Jumada al-Awwal 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 6 October 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the prime minister

Advisers to President Salih Appointed

JN0610204094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Oct 94

[Presidential Decree No. 4 dated 6 October—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the Republic, after taking cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, and in accordance with the public interest, has decided:

Article 1: Brothers Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, and Dr. Hasan al-Salami shall be appointed advisers to the president.

Article 2: This decree shall go into effect as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

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Issued at the presidency in Sanaa on 2 Jumada al-Awwal 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 6 October 1994

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic

Central Bank Governor Appointed

JN0610210894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Oct 94

[Presidential Decree No. 3 of 1994 dated 6 October—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having taken cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and Law No. 21 the Central Bank of Yemen, and upon the recommendation of the prime minister and the approval of the Council of Ministers, the president of republic decrees:

Article 1: Brother 'Alawi Salih al-Salami shall be appointed governor of the Central Bank of Yemen.

Article 2: This decree shall be effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Office in Sanaa on 2 Jumada al-Awwal 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 6 October 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic; 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the prime minister

Former Key YSP Leaders Dismissed by New Leadership

JN0710095594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Oct 94 pp 28, 27

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa, AL-RA'Y—The Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has dismissed four former YSP leaders who were involved in the proclamation of a secessionist state in southern Yemen in May.

The dismissal bill was proposed by the majority of YSP Political Bureau members during a meeting held in Sanaa yesterday. It calls for the dismissal of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, former YSP secretary general, former vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, and president of the self-proclaimed state in southern Yemen; Salim Salih Muhammad, former YSP assistant secretary general and former member of the Yemeni Presidential Council; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, former member of the YSP Political Bureau, former Yemeni prime minister, and prime minister in the self-proclaimed state in southern Yemen; and Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, former YSP Political Bureau member. The bill was endorsed.

In statements to AL-RA'Y, [newly-elected YSP Secretary General] 'Ali Salih 'Abbad Muqbil said that the dismissal was prompted by the fact that three of the aforementioned leaders attended the recent meetings held in London by the leaders of the self-proclaimed state, and announced the launching of the so-called opposition National Front, which demands self-determination for the residents of the eastern and southern governorates in Yemen. As for why al-Bid, who is currently in the Sultanate of Oman, was dismissed, although he did not attend these meetings, 'Abbad said that a statement was announced on his behalf expressing support for the decisions made by those who took part in the London meetings. These decisions, 'Abbad Muqbil argued, run counter to decisions made by the YSP Central Committee in an expanded session it held in Sanaa in early September—the decisions condemning the secession

'Abbad has denied that there is a link between the decision to dismiss four YSP leaders who played key roles in the proclamation of a secessionist state and demands by the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] that the YSP take such a step. The GPC and YRG made this demand, terming it essential if the YSP is to be rehabilitated and allowed to operate fully in the Yemeni political life. 'Abbad said: We made this decision because the former YSP leaders are determined to pursue secessionist policies that are strongly opposed by our party. [passage omitted]

National Opposition Leader Denies Separatist Aims

MM0610153094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Oct 94 p 3

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, a leader of the Yemeni National Opposition Front and leader of the Sons of Yemen League, by 'Abdallah Hammudah in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hammudah] How do you view the accusation that the proclamation of the National Opposition Front represents a southern action against the north in Yemen? Some people interpret it as a partitionist action against the unity concept, which enjoys the unanimous approval of all Yemenis of various inclinations.

[Al-Jifri] Our action is not a southern action against the north. This is not our thinking, nor will it ever be. It is an action taken by the helpless and insulted south against the tyrannical regime in Sanaa, in cooperation with helpless northerners.

[Hammudah] But there are those who pause at the phrase self-determination mentioned in the statement announcing the front, interpreting it as a call for secession. What is your opinion?

[Al-Jifri] It is natural that there should be self-determination not only for the south, but for the sons of the north as well, so that they can choose the system of government they want and the unity formula that achieves for them equal citizenship and justice. It is a legitimate right. Anyone who rejects this right does not believe in democracy or the peoples' right to justice.

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Self-determination in this connection is not a Western option, as used to be said in the fifties and sixties when it was a demand for all the helpless peoples aimed against the West. It should be understood in the framework of the Yemeni situation.

[Hammudah] Maybe some people interpreted the matter in such a manner because of the historic circumstances associated with the conditions in which the Sons of Yemen League emerged in the south. Some people say that the League's orientations are partitionist, because it is of southern origin. Can you throw some light on this point?

[Al-Jifri] The League is not close to that concept. It is close to the Yemeni nationalist concept. Any nonnationalist concept is alien to it. The League was not the only one with nationalist roots or effects in the past. All the parties that emerged at that stage, including the Nationalist Front, the Socialist Party, and the Liberation Front—all national parties were either northern or southern—which does not mean that they are partitionist.

From the outset the League has demanded the unity of the Arab south, which comprises Aden and its protectorates (23 sultanates and shaykhdoms) as a step toward the unity of the greater Arab south, which includes natural Yemen. This is mentioned in all the League's literature since the fifties.

[Hammudah] On the basis of what you said, how do you visualize Yemeni unity?

[Al-Jifri] We are for unity, but we are not for "this unity," because it is not unity. It is clearly a domination by a certain group from a certain area of all other groups and areas. The question imposing itself is: With whom did 'Abdallah Salih and his regime unite? He admitted in a speech to the Armed Forces after the war that there was no unity before the war. So his claim that he ignited the war to consolidate unity collapsed with his own admission. And we know that there is no place for the real southern leaderships in this unity. Brother 'Abdallah Salih is trying to set up new imaginary, made-to-measure leaderships in order to portray the entire homeland as united. Where is the south and its sons in this unity and state?

[Hammudah] What is your opinion of the current dispute inside Socialist Party ranks, and how do you explain it?

[Al-Jifri] I say that the current dispute in the Socialist Party is a natural thing. The party ruled for 25 years, then came the war to put it outside power. Part of it remained in the country, and another part left the homeland to stay abroad. It is natural for these differences and splits to occur in its ranks. Thus either part will try to hold one another responsible for the party's exclusion from power. What is happening is very normal. But we had hoped that the situation would not reach such a stage.

[Hammudah] What is your position on the Socialist Party leaders allied with you, and is the dispute inside the party affecting your position inside the alliance or your respect for them?

[Al-Jifri] We respect and appreciate our Socialist Party colleagues in the alliance. We believe that the voices denying their representation of the Socialist Party are not saying the truth. Although the leaders who joined us in the alliance are the foundation of the Socialist Party, they have never claimed that they represent the party in the alliance. They have always stressed that they represent the party's leaderships. It is unjust for anyone to deny this.

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INC: Republican Guard Divisions 'Heading South'

NC0710070394 Paris AFP in English 2257 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nicosia, Oct 6 (AFP)—Elite Iraqi Republican Guard divisions are heading south toward the Kuwaiti border, an opposition umbrella group said Thursday, as Kuwait condemned renewed "threats" from Baghdad.

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), which groups several opposition factions, said President Saddam Husayn had "ordered a mobilisation of his elite troops toward the Kuwaiti border."

In a statement received in Cyprus, the INC said "large-scale troop movements" had been reported in several parts of Iraq in the past two days.

"Republican Guard divisions encamped around the cities of Mosul and Karkuk in the north of Iraq are now rapidly moving toward the cities of al-Basra and al-'Amarah near the southern borders," said the INC, which is based in Kurdish-held Salah al-Din in northern Iraq. [passage omitted]

Official, Pentagon Deny Claims

JN0710124594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sa'id Ahmad, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Brussels, today denied the claims made by the Iraqi opposition in London that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has declared a general mobilization of the Republican Guard Forces in preparation for their movement toward Kuwait. The Iraqi official said no Iraqi units have moved toward Kuwait, adding that, so far, Iraq has honored the UN resolutions.

The United States also denied the Iraqi opposition's claims. A Pentagon spokesman said they have no knowledge of such movements.

A U.S. official, who asked to remain anonymous, announced that he has no information on any movements by the Iraqi troops. This official, however, did not rule out such a possibility, particularly on the occasion of military maneuvers.

UN's Ekeus Concludes Talks With al-Sahhaf, Rashid

Ekeus Leaves Baghdad

JN0610130094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Oct (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, left Baghdad today following a four-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, Ekeus and his delegation held talks with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, on relations between Iraq and the UN Special Commission.

Al-Sahhaf, Rashid Hold News Conference

NC0610224694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1828 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, held a joint news conference attended by correspondents from local and foreign press, radio and television networks, and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY this evening. They reviewed the relationship with the UN Security Council and the results of the visit to Iraq by Mr. Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Security Council Special Commission.

During the conference, which was attended by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, the foreign minister briefed the correspondents on the results of Ekeus' visit and talks. He said: In this news conference, my colleague Lieutenant General 'Amr Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, and I wanted to brief you on and receive your questions about the talks we held with Mr. Ekeus during his latest three-day visit to Iraq.

He added: In September 1993, Mr. Ekeus and the Special Commission clearly drafted the program they wanted to implement to complete the work they were delegated to do concerning the implementation [by Iraq] of Section C of Security Council Resolution 687 and to finish the job pertaining to this section. That is, Iraq and the Security Council were supposed to work together to implement Paragraph 22.

According to the plan set by Mr. Ekeus and the Special Commission, the foreign minister added, there were two stages the stage of instituting the monitoring system with a view to achieving a stable operation of the system, to be preceded by a stage of verifying the monitoring system with a view toward a stable operation [words indistinct] a stage of verifying Iraqi announcements. This means building and checking the monitoring plan during the basic inspection and verifying details. The minister noted that the two plans were interlinked; that is, both parts would have ended in six months.

The minister indicated that under the plan, the monitoring process, in its final shape, should have started so that we could reach the implementation of Paragraph 22 in June 1994.

The minister said that the implementation of the prara-graph was expected to be completed in June. But, later,

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in February, the plan was modified. After some reconsideration and the completion of preparations, the plan was to be operational on or around the end of July.

After that, the minister added, another change was introduced, according to which the monitoring, in its final form, was to have started—if the plan was followed—at the end of September.

He added: Those changes worried us a great deal, and it was our right to be worried because in September 1993, we and Mr. Ekeus agreed on a specific program. He did not abide by the program. We therefore held talks with him recently in New York, when Lt. Gen. 'Amir Rashid went to New York along with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. The talks yielded no results so we awaited Mr. Ekeus' visit to Baghdad to ask him about the truth of the matter.

Al-Sahhaf said: Ekeus arrived in Baghdad on 3 October. We held two lengthy meetings with him and we entered into lengthy discussions on all details. We learned from him that the report that he will submit to the Security Council on 10 October will avoid or disregard Iraq's demands and rights in accordance with the agreement and clear understanding we reached with him in September 1993. During our talks, Ekeus said that he cannot put in his report to the Security Council that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations in accordance with Paragraphs 8 to 13 of Section C or in accordance with Paragraph 22. He said that he will include in his report that the monitoring system will begin operating in a temporary and conditional manner on 1 October. Ekeus said he cannot specify how long the monitoring system's testing period will be. In the past, he said that it will not be more than six months. We told him the agreement and the ongoing work between the special commission in all its details clearly indicate that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations in accordance with Paragraphs 8 to 13.

Al-Sahhaf said: The monitoring system has been present for a long time in Iraq, a part of it since 1992, and has been tested. Why does Ekeus say that the operation of the system will be in a temporary and conditional manner and not in a full manner? Why doesn't Ekeus specify how long the monitoring system's testing period will be? At the beginning, he said the period would be for a maximum of six months, and he did not need a testing period after the positive cooperation and the good work done by Iraq and the special commission. So from the technical point of view he is convinced that there is no justification for a testing period. Why now does he request a testing period without specifying how long it will be?

Al-Sahhaf said: We affirmed to Ekeus that in accordance with all the calculations made by the two sides, we expected Ekeus and the special commission to say that matters that were clearly settled by the two sides in September 1993 have achieved their results. In other words, the special commission and the IAEA will say that Iraq has fulfilled the obligations specified in the aforementioned paragraphs, that the monitoring system has become ready for operation, and that the testing period for the system, if there is a need for it, will be for a maximum of six months. This means that the commission's work, thanks to Iraq's cooperation, which has become very clear, has reached a stage whereby the Security Council will discuss the implementation of Paragraph 22 ,which will lead to the lifting of the economic blockade on Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf said: For the second time we stressed this in the talks we held with Ekeus during his visit. However, his answers were vague. He avoided giving any real reason for his sudden change of attitude.

Al-Sahhaf threw light on the basic points in Ekeus' answers. Ekeus said he cannot testify that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations because he still wants to ask questions and there is work to be done in connection with Iraq's previous programs. He then alleged that he cannot say that there is full operation of the monitoring system because the efficiency and effectiveness of this system need to be tested. In fact, this system has been in place and has been tested. Regarding the period of time, I asked why Ekeus had not set a six-month period as he said he would. His answer was vague. When he says that he needs to test this monitoring system and he needs the continuation of Iraq's cooperation with the special commission, he is vague and unconvincing.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf explained that these are the basic and central points that were discussed with Ekeus and [word indistinct] who is in fact fully responsible for the many unwarranted changes in the implementation program and for the extreme vagueness that shrouds the report he will submit to the Security Council, which will not be fair to Iraq and will not acknowledge its rights in accordance with the actual implementation and cooperation that has taken place between Iraq and the special commission in the past years.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, then spoke and said he will deal with the technical aspects of the relationship between Iraq and the commission starting with what is called the former programs. He said that there are clauses 8 to 13 in Resolution 687, according to which Iraq is required to submit within 15 days information to the special commission on the sites and technical resources that are pertinent to those banned in accordance with Resolution 687. When we look at the date that this resolution was issued—the beginning of March 1991—and that the Security Council asked Iraq to submit information within 15 days, it certainly meant that the Council had in mind a limited volume of information that deal with only basic data.

He added that the objective of this basic information that the Council had in mind was to enable it to specify which sites and which industrial resources were banned according to the agreement. Then it could subject them

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to destruction, or what is called removal of damage, or to specify the industrial resources not covered by the ban—the "allowable" ones—but could be used to back up the banned activities and were called the double-use resources so that it could put them under the monitoring system. He said that Iraq did in fact submit the relevant information within 15 days under the conditions that followed the brutal aggression against it, but this special commission's endless demands continued and the inspection teams kept searching all the relevant and nonrelevant resources for a long time. This continued throughout 1991 and 1992 and until mid-1993. He said: We gave a lot of information during these meetings and through correspondence and many decisions. The special commission said in 1993 that there was still information on the previous programs that Iraq had to submit and that all the information had to be submitted within 15 days.

Lt. Gen. Rashid said that for this reason instructions were issued by the leadership at the time, in 1993, that a technical delegation of specializations would travel to New York to query the special commission about what exactly it wanted to know about the previous programs and what information Iraq did not furnish. The Iraqi party did so despite its conviction that it provided not only the required information but much more than what was outlined in the resolution. Nevertheless, and to drop pretexts and alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people and avoid prolonging the blockade, we asked the special commission to tell us what exactly remained to be provided about previous programs so that we would draft it in a clear and understandable report.

Lt. Gen. Rashid said that despite the fact that the numerous queries and discussions during the New York meeting were radical and outside the framework of what was required in the resolutions, the competence of the technical delegation in dealing with these issues astonished the negotiating party in the special commission and was forced to acknowledge in an official document to the Security Council that only limited and specific points were required of the Iraqi party.

Lt. Gen. Rashid pointed out that this report was signed by Rolf Ekeus, Lt. Gen 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, and the IAEA vice president. Within two months, in November, we provided all the information pertinent to the biological material and missiles that remained to be provided from the point of view of the special commission but not from our viewpoint. He said that the special commission explained that the information that the Iraqi party provided was highly credible but that it must be verified and that this process would take a short time. This was in November 1993. We are now approaching November 1994, and they still have not completed verifying and checking the chemical program. They continue to repeatedly raise the remaining information about biological and nuclear activity and missiles with the obvious political goal of prolonging the embargo.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid said they always use excuses based on information they receive from intelligence sources they claim to be reliable that Iraq is hiding biological equipment and missiles underground.

He said they always leak news so that they can send inspection teams to verify the information. We do not mind cooperating with them regarding their information, he added, but it is painful that once the special commission receives the information it conveys it to the Security Council and leads it to believe that Iraq is still hiding information and capabilities. When the inspection teams complete their inspection—and they always find that the information is not correct—they do not inform the Security Council in the same way in which they conveyed heir doubts before the inspection; they just leave the matter as it is.

Such doubts, he noted, are always raised just before the Security Council makes its periodic revision of the sanctions against Iraq. The pattern is that one month or six weeks before the revision, some issue is raised and the Security Council is informed. This creates doubts, which the U.S. representative or the British ambassador in the Security Council take advantage of. Then this ploy fails, but only after the revision is over, the political objective is achieved, and nothing positive is achieved for Iraq.

Lt. Gen. Rashid referred to the so-called verification of Iraqi information and said that this is not the responsibility of Iraq but of the special commission, which should make the verification when it feels this is necessary. This, he said, is a political game aimed at prolonging the verification of all information. Some countries intentionally delay the information to say that the verification is not over.

Faced with all this, he said, we always ask Mr. Ekeus on what basis the suffering of the Iraqi people and the crime of the blockade should continue for something that is not part of Iraq's obligations but a task of the special commission if it wished to perform it. In this task, the commission cooperates with other countries that delay the process.

What matters about this information, he explained, is the destruction of all the so-called banned equipment, whether they are missiles, chemical weapons, or technical resources related to nuclear, chemical, or missile activity. Regarding biological weapons, we have nothing. All these were destroyed, and we destroyed more than the resolution demands. What more does the special commission want?

He added: If the additional information is needed to achieve knowledge, then they destroyed more than they should have and identified more industrial capabilities than they should have in order to subject them to monitoring under the pretext of double use. What, then, is the additional information needed for? Their answer is always vague, evasive, and tendentious.

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In reply to a question about Iraq's response if the special commission submits a negative report, the foreign minister said: We asked ambassador Ekeus to include three basic points in his report because they are true and because Iraq has implemented what was asked of it regarding the points already mentioned. The first point is that the report should include a recognition that Iraq has implemented its commitments as stipulated in the clauses from 8 to 13. The second is that the operation of the monitoring system be described as fully operational and not a temporary one because this is in fact true. The third point is that if there is a need for testing the monitoring system, then Mr. Ekeus should abide by his declaration that six months is the maximum period for testing the system. These points demanded by Iraq are stipulated in Security Council Resolution 687, that is, if Iraq implements its commitments as stipulated in the clauses from 8 to 13, then Mr. Ekeus has to say so, even though the Security Council resolution does not mention anything about testing the monitoring system. The Security Council did not say that a monitoring system must be set up and tested but said that a monitoring system must be set up and operated.

The minister added: It appears from the vague answers of Mr. Ekeus that he wants to avoid recognizing Iraq's rights in accordance with what has really happened. He stressed that Iraq will wait to see the nature and text of the report when it is submitted. He said that if the Ekeus report does not include these points, which are valid, then this would mean that he intends to help prolong the siege.

In a reply to an INA question about the reasons for Ekeus' insistence on not setting a timetable, despite his admittance that there are no technical justifications barring this, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said: Ekeus has changed his stance several times. At the beginning he made statements in which he said that the monitoring system might need a period of testing and he estimated this period at six months. He then officially told us in Baghdad during the visit that preceded his current one that, from the technical aspect, he was convinced that there was no need for a testing period but would leave this to the Security Council and that if he personally was asked he would reply that there was no need for a testing period.

The foreign minister added: This last time we asked Ekeus what his reply would be if they asked him at the Security Council. He replied: I believe that the maximum is six months. But he refuses to say so in his report. The foreign minister added: My interpretation of Ekeus' insistence is that he is resorting to ambiguity and to not clearly stating the matters because he appears to be part of the tendentious political process led by the United States to prolong the siege of Iraq for political purposes that have nothing to do with the clauses of Security Council Resolution 687.

The foreign minister said: I told ambassador Ekeus that if you remain ambiguous and refuse to acknowledge the clear points, then this means that you are participating in the imposition of the siege on Iraq and in prolonging it and you will cause the collapse of all that has been done between us and you. I hold you fully responsible for this.

He described the technical excuses that Ekeus is resorting to as feeble ones that cannot stand up to the facts.

Asked if Iraq will accept Ekeus remaining as chairman of the special commission if he does not change his ways, the foreign minister said: We were not the ones who appointed Ekeus chairman of the commission. We are not interested in this matter; we are dealing with a Security Council commission. We have explained our position, based on facts and documents, to Mr. Ekeus and have asked him to be clear and to stop his maneuvers and ambiguous ways.

Answering a question about the testing period, Lt. Gen. 'Amir Rashid said the only Security Council report that mentions the testing period is the September 1993 one. The reason is that there is no legal or technical basis for a testing period or a confidence-building period. When the idea was raised during the talks in September 1993, Iraq objected to it but Mr. Ekeus said the testing or the confidence-building period would be part of the basic inspection measures and that everything would be completed in six months beginning on 1 December 1993.

He added: The official and declared aim of the testing period as established in September was to ensure Iraq's continued cooperation. In February, Ambassador Ekeus explained that the testing or confidence-building period was no longer needed or justified because its objective had been achieved due to the delay in implementing the monitoring system.

Lt. Gen. Rashid asked: How could Ekeus cast doubt on Iraq's cooperation? Iraq cooperated when there was no monitoring, when it pursued a tougher policy, and when there were no cameras, so why should it not cooperate when things are normal and smooth? This means there is a political motive behind all this.

Asked by INA the meaning of temporary monitoring and why it should not be part of the continuous monitoring process, the foreign minister said: The formula is vague and fabricated. When we discussed it with Ambassador Ekeus, he admitted that the term is vague and tried to justify it by saying that he wanted to study the system and that he wanted work to continue to complete Iraq's old programs [as received] and ensure Iraq's cooperation. We discussed this with him and explained that it has no basis. The system consists of cameras, censors, and labels on a number of machines. The facilities were identified and everything is ready and available and some of them have been operational for some time, as they have been tested. The second point is that Iraq is cooperating, as we explained. Regarding old projects, most of them are unfounded because the special commission describes the information it receives from the

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tendentious intelligence agencies from time to time as trivial, not only marginal. In all his reports, Ekeus says Iraq is cooperating and praises this cooperation. How, then, does he want to ensure Iraq's cooperation?

The foreign minister said: I assume from this expression that Ekeus has either succumbed to the Americans' blackmail and pressure or has in fact been participating from the start in the procrastination and prevarication, so that the final frank words would not be said or written without evasion toward the Security Council, since such straightforward words would frankly help the Council with the facts in implementing Clause 22. He is helping impede the work of the majority in the Security Council, which harbors no hostile intentions toward Iraq. Practically, when ambiguous reports are submitted to the majority, its position is weakened and that of the minority in the Security Council is strengthened; that is, the United States, which wants the siege to continue. This is the only explanation I can give for this kind of ambiguous behavior and for the expedient use of feeble, trifle, and absolutely incorrect excuses.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid noted that in the joint statement issued in July 1994 Ekeus and the IAEA said that the monitoring system would be effective without delay in September 1994.

He spotlighted some of the technical information. He said that the cameras were installed to monitor nuclear, missile, and chemical activities. There are around 68 cameras. A limited number of cameras were installed in two sites relevant to the biological activity in mid-September when he came under U.S. pressure and could not say that it is active. [sentence as received] A team arrived in Iraq to install the cameras they specified. The team was withdrawn on the pretext that the government that gave them the cameras withdrew them. They took several measures to prolong this matter and said that a 100-meter tower should be erected on which to place telecommunications equipment to convey the pictures from remote sites. They said: We cannot regard the monitoring system as effective until after the erection of the tower and we need six months to complete it. Here we told them: We will complete this tower for you in one month. Iraqi technicians did complete it in nine days to invalidate the excuses of the special commission and the bad members of the Security Council who control it and for the sake of alleviating the Iraqi people's sufferings. Thus, they are always raising some issue. For example, they wanted to alter all the rooms of the al-Qanah Hotel. They wanted to split the rooms so the hotel would be an efficient monitoring center and equipment could be set up there, because if the monitoring center in Baghdad is not complete then we cannot regard the monitoring system as effective. Iraqi technicians altered the hotel completely as they wanted, in accordance with international specifications, and at Iraq's expense, in one month.

The Iraqis have always nullified the excuses, but the one that was really ludicrous and disdainful was the one that made them withdraw the team. Regarding this excuse, Ekeus said: A major country that is a permanent Security Council member said that it had changed its mind and to give it back its cameras. The team withdrew. Legally, if you ask me, if the cameras were installed the answer should have been no, because there would be two or three cameras less. He was saying: We are now looking for another country to give us the cameras because we do not have funds and we have to contact companies to bring and install the cameras.

Al-Sahhaf referred to Iraq's programs for manufacturing weapons, which have been prohibited. He said these programs were officially declared by Iraq first. [Disclosure of] our private contracts did not only depend on Iraq's declaration but also on the so-called information from other parties. In other words, the United States disclosed all the information it had. They came and checked. After a while, they said others gave them information that they also checked. They say these things every time. How long will we be involved in these silly affairs in the name of the special commission and the inspection teams?

Al-Sahhaf said: All of Iraq's previous programs have become known. They are not huge and big programs as these wicked people are rumoring but are limited programs. We had a known chemical weapon that was completely destroyed. The factories that manufactured these materials were destroyed and became incapable of manufacturing the chemical weapon. Iraq's nuclear installations were destroyed. Iraq did not have a nuclear military program but had scientific research facilities like other states. These facilities were destroyed and the few that remained are under supervision. They know every detail about these remaining facilities.

Al-Sahhaf stressed that Iraq is considered backward in the biological field. It has simple laboratories, the details of which are known to them. They also know all the details about the missiles. Iraq's missiles, which have a range of over 150 km, have been destroyed.

Al-Sahhaf stressed that the aim of the repetitious talk about the residue of Iraq's previous programs is political; this is the talk of intelligence agencies. They have insolently rumored that there is an Iraqi nuclear reactor under the ground. All the scientists say that this information shows disdain for people's minds. However, U.S. and Zionist propaganda has stooped to such a dirty level. Ambassador Ekeus has sent inspection teams to check this intelligence story. Afterward, it is found that this thing does not exist. They took water samples from the extreme north to the extreme south in Iraq to check this lie. The Iraqi technical team said to Ekeus and the IAEA: We ask an objective question. How long—especially since the U.S. intelligence agencies and others can send you false reports for hundreds of years—will you continue to do this, for hundreds of years?

Minister al-Sahhaf said: When Mr. Ekeus argues that we gave them the details of some parts of the Iraqi program

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from memory, that these documents were destroyed, that what we said was not correct, and that they needed time to check the truth because there were no documents—and they were supposed to have checked the truth—this argument is now many months old. What remains after this is nothing but politically motivated intelligence intrigues designed to keep the picture vague, to continue casting doubts on Iraq's position, and then to say that the committee's work is not yet complete and the time has not yet come for lifting the embargo against Iraq.

The foreign minister added: I would like to give you real examples. They are talking about Iraq's old programs, and you can appreciate what they mean by this. They went to the factories of Baghdad, al-Samawah, and Ninawa. They inspected beer factories; Iraqi Arak [ouzo] factories; and the departments of biology, medicine, veterinary medicine, science, education, and agriculture in all Iraqi universities. They went to Iraqi oil refineries and to the Trade Ministry's wheat and barely stores and grain silos. They inspected the Yafa Juice factory and fields and farms. They entered filthy sewage drains and went to the Baghdad Police Directorate and Baghdad Education Directorate. These are Iraq's old programs.

He added: They went to the Olympic Committee, Baghdad Stadium, and gas stations in streets. They went to a food factory, a tourist complex, a Baghdad slaughterhouse, and finally to a wooden chicken farm. These are Iraq's old programs.

He said: I think that the picture is clear to you now. These are examples. These excessive and unethical acts certainly anger not only the Iraqis, but any citizen in the West will consider the people who do such things as wicked beyond all limits.

Minister al-Sahhaf explained that all that is erroneously being said about Iraq's former programs, apart from the points explained by Lt. Gen. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, are mere excuses. All the rest are only lies aimed at creating excuses, distortions, ambiguities, allegations, and false accusations to prolong the siege of the Iraqi people by any means.

Commenting on the same issue, Lt. Gen. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid said: From the technical side, we are constantly suffering from the repetitive raising of the same issues. In 1992 we asked and told Mr. Ekeus: In the same way that bids are put out to buy goods, announce a bid for all the hostile and nonhostile countries and the intelligence services and set a timetable. Ask these organs whether they have other doubts and information about Iraq and to present them within so many months. You will have no right after that to raise doubts about Iraq in the Security Council. He welcomed the idea. It was chiefly the U.S. intelligence service that had the required information. He came in the tenth month of 1992, at a time like this, and said: I have a list of questions on the missiles issue. That was the issue raised at that time. He said: If you answer these questions and satisfy us, then I promise you that I will tell the Security Council to close the missiles file. That was in 1992.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir added that many of the questions were inspired by the intelligence service and were provocative or outside the framework of the special commission's task. Yet we were instructed by the officials then to answer these questions because this would have a major result, namely, the closure of the missiles file and a reduction of the Iraqi people's suffering. The head of the inspection team did in fact write that the missile file was closed in October 1992. We were relieved for a few months.

He added: However, as usual, U.S. Defense Secretary Aspen issued a statement saying that the Iraqis are hiding 40 missiles, one launcher, and chemical weapons under the ground. They ignored the fact that the subterranean water level in Iraq does not permit the hiding of many things under the ground. Ekeus strongly appealed to the Iraqis to cooperate with him so he could send a very large team with advanced equipment to settle this issue.

Lt. Gen. Rashid said this team came in October 1993. It consisted of between 90 and 100 inspectors. German planes present in Iraq—in addition to planes that came from the U.S. Air Force especially for inspection and to U-2 planes—flew around the clock. The team used advanced electronic equipment called "underground radar," which searches for several meters under the ground. They used infrared equipment and many other things for one entire month.

He added: Afterward, they said you have cooperated with us and we now can answer the U.S. Administration and tell it that your talk is baseless because there is nothing under the ground in Iraq.

Lt. Gen. Rashid said: And now in October 1994 the CIA director has returned to the same story. Why do they raise all these issues in October? Four days ago the CIA director said the Iraqis are hiding missiles and mass destruction weapons under the ground. They always say under the ground and not over the ground.

He added: At an expanded meeting in New York in front of the representatives of several states, we repeatedly told Ekeus: Let us negotiate. If you don't have the power to negotiate at the Security Council, let us negotiate with the U.S. National Security adviser or the CIA director as long as they are the decisionmakers and can influence the special commission. Let us negotiate because the subject is in the interest of the Iraqi people.

Lt. Gen. Rashid added: We are military men and technicians; we are able to convince them and prove that their doubts are false and, at the same time, expose their intentions. He said it is possible for such a meeting to be held with the national security adviser or the CIA director in the presence and under the supervision of Ekeus, or in his absence. This subject must be decided,

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for the suffering of the Iraqi people cannot continue just because there is an influential country in the Security Council. I must remove its doubts, and when a subject is raised I must be convincing about it, he said.

Addressing Ekeus, Rashid said: If you are not the decisionmaker, let us speak directly with the decisionmakers.

Lt. Gen. Rashid told journalists: Imagine that in June 1994 they raised the subject of biological equipment they said was hidden underground in the al-Salman region. A nine-man American team arrived; they included no Englishmen. They began searching underground using the most modern technology. Before the inspection, of course, they told the Security Council that they had serious information about Iraq's biological program that they wanted to check out. After 10 days of painstaking work, they determined that there was nothing underground.

Lt. Gen. Rashid wondered about the significance of the story and answered that a satellite picture taken in the summer of 1991 showed that excavations were being conducted in that region and that it was close to a biological site. But what they claimed to be biological equipment was, in fact, old graves.

Lt Gen. Rashid wondered: Have you seen the ill intentions? For, if that was really Iraqi biological equipment, wouldn't it have been a threat to the world community as Iraq might have used it? How could you hide this piece of information all this time without it being verified? This is a threat to peace in the region. This means Iraq was keeping biological equipment, and for political reasons they hid the fact so they could use it when the time for reviewing the sanctions came in July and a lifting of the embargo was expected. They hid the information until that decisive day to block the lifting of the siege during the July review.

Lt. Gen. Rashid said: Even if they are correct and there is indeed offensive or defensive biological equipment, they should have checked this matter in 1992 and 1993 and revealed the truth. However, they know and the CIA knows that this is a lie that they have spread to confuse the public and the Security Council.

On the nature of defining the indications for the application of the points for testing the monitoring system, the Foreign Minister said: Yes, it is true they are indications but not complete texts so we could give our evaluation and our official stance on an oral explanation of the basic points in our report. [sentence as received] This is first.

Second, Ekeus said that he had listened to us and that a result of the lengthy and extensive discussion with him he was thinking of amending his report, but he did not tell us the nature of these amendments. He added that Ekeus gave a general description and then spoke about amendments. Therefore, we must wait and see the official text so that we will be able to give our position.

Answering a question from INA on Iraq's three demands that were discussed with Ekeus and whether there would be a private meeting between Ekeus and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Foreign Minister al-Sahhaf said: Mr. Ekeus did not promise to include our three just demands in his report. He also gave very feeble excuses. Therefore, I hold him fully responsible.

Regarding the second part of the INA question, al-Sahhaf said there are no plans for a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Ambassador Ekeus. He noted that before Ekeus came to Baghdad he met with Tariq 'Aziz. He added: We have briefed the deputy prime minister on the results of Ekeus' current visit to Baghdad.

Relationship With UN Seen Needing 'Serious Review'

JN0610094294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers today agree that Iraq's relationships with the UN Security Council and the Special Commission need serious review to clarify all the issues, especially since Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions.

In editorials today, AL-QADISIYAH, AL-THAWRAH, and AL-'IRAQ say that Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council is not balanced, especially since the Council has become a cover and a tool for implementing the decisions of the U.S. Administrations and its allies and agents.

AL-THAWRAH, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, stresses that the Iraqi people will not stand by idly in the face of U.S. determination to continue to besiege and starve them to death after it failed miserably to achieve its wicked scheme to destroy Iraq or bring it to its knees.

The paper wonders: What justification is there now for maintaining the blockade since many permanent and nonpermanent member states of the UN Security Council have become convinced that the relationship between Iraq and the Special Commission is progressing in a way that can ensure the implementation of the resolutions? Thus, the commission should demand that the Council fulfill its obligations. It can do so by expressing satisfaction with the progress and by setting a date for starting future monitoring, for a period which, according to the plan of the these states, must not exceed six months.

The paper refers to the reports [UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf] Ekeus presented to the UN Security Council noting that the majority of these reports refer to progress in the implementation of the resolutions and a positive relationship between Iraq and the Special Commission.

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The paper recalls that Iraqi weapons, material, machinery, and facilities were destroyed in accordance with the operating paragraphs of Resolution 687. Ekeus considered this a positive move which would help implement the paragraph calling for ending the oil embargo imposed on Iraq, in accordance with Paragraph 22, Section C of Resolution 687.

In an editorial entitled "The Crossroads and the Crossing," AL-QADISIYAH, the Armed Forces paper, says: Ekeus is simply taking us back to square one and is disavowing his previous statements, thus making it clear beyond any doubt that he is implementing the premeditated, unfair U.S. position, which seeks to maintain the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq regardless of Iraq's position on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Addressing Ekeus, the paper asks: Who is really required to implement the UN Resolutions now that Iraq had implemented all that has been required of it? Ekeus documented this in a barrage of statements, including the one he made in early 1993 in which he said that Iraq had implemented over 90 percent of its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions. What has developed to make Ekeus demand that Iraq speed up the implementation of UN resolutions instead of demanding the United Nations implement its own resolutions after Iraq fulfilled its obligations toward them?

The paper stresses that Ekeus is now playing a political and tactical role, and not a technical one. That role is based on evasiveness, delay, and procrastination to win time at the expense of Iraq's legitimate interests and its right to lift the oil embargo imposed against it.

The paper warns that things may come to a head now since all Iraqis have been harmed, since they have been struck by hunger, and since many of their children have died because of the shortage of food and medicine.

The paper calls on Ekeus, the Americans, and the English not to fall prey to the illusion that Iraq's implementation of the unfair UN Security Council resolutions will continue if the UN Security Council fails to implement its reciprocal obligations to end the oil embargo and the comprehensive blockade. The paper says: You are quite wrong if you think this will happen. With all due respect to all peoples, Iraq is not Panama, Grenada, Somalia, Rwanda, or Haiti. It is the Iraq which the English, as well as the Americans, know best. It is the Iraq of the 1920 revolution and the 1941 uprising. It is the Iraq of 14 July 1958, of 8 February 1963, and of 17-30 July 1968. And, it is the Iraq of 1972.

Addressing Ekeus, the paper adds: We as Iraqis tell you and your American and English masters that your game can no longer fool us. We and you have arrived at the real crossroads: Monitoring will not start before the UN Security Council sets a final date for lifting the oil embargo.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council and the Special Commission needs serious review to clarify matters and put an end to the U.S. illegitimate, capricious behavior.

In its editorial today, the paper says that Iraq's sincere implementation of its obligations toward the UN Security Council and the Special Commission is being met by blunt evasion on the part of the Council and the Commission; for nothing is happening except that the committees affiliated with the UN Security Council are persisting in procrastination and making new unfair demands that are not part of the resolutions that have been issued after 2 August 1990.

The paper reviews the contradictory statements of the chairman of the Special Commission and the aggressive U.S. stands which reflect hatred and persistence in evil, up to the latest U.S. position, which has explicitly stated that nothing will happen concerning the lifting of the blockade even if Iraq fully implements UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper asserts Iraq's eagerness to maintain links with the fair quarters that call for acknowledging the progress that has been achieved, especially regarding Resolution 687 and specifically Part C of it. The paper notes the seriousness of the hideous anti-Iraq genocidal plot. The paper calls on UN Security Council member states to intensify efforts to bring pressure to bear on the Special Commission and its chairman, Ekeus, and not to leave all papers in the hand of the malicious U.S. player and his prejudiced intentions.

The paper explains that the Special Commission's blind implementation of U.S. demands reflects a deliberate disregard for the rest of the UN Security Council member states and constitutes an anomalous situation which should be not be ignored. The paper stresses the Iraqi people's determination to confront this injustice which contradicts the most basic human rights and both heavenly and earthly laws.

Press Emphasizes Warning to United Nations, Ekeus

JN0710103994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Oct (INA)—AL-THAWRAH and AL-'IRAQ have denounced the U.S. Administration's insistence on continuing aggression against Iraq and fabricating false pretexts to continue the blockade on it.

AL-THAWRAH, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in its editorial today that Washington and its allies have escalated their targeting of Iraq. The paper adds: Thus, we have reached a stage in which it has become clear that the people's only option is to search for a method that guarantees their existence and honorable life and that will open before them the road toward

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dignity if the Security Council and its Special Commission continue with their current procrastination and search for weak excuses to prolong the blockade.

The paper says: The blockade changed, a long time ago, from a technical issue into a political stand with which America planned to serve its goals, which aim at controlling people and acquiring their resources.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Washington also seeks, through this scheme, to destroy Iraq, its progress, and its awakening capabilities. The paper recalls Iraq's compliance with and implementation of Clauses 7 through 13 of Resolution 687 and urges the Security Council to fulfill its commitments stipulated by this resolution—namely, the immediate lifting of the sanctions and the restoration of the flow of oil.

AL-THAWRAH expresses its belief that nobody will blame the people and leadership of Iraq if they undertake measures that will restore to the people their rights if the Security Council continues to disavow its commitments as a result of U.S. pressure.

The mouthpeice of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party cautioned that the continuation of the arbitrary U.S. policy will force Iraq to search for other ways to deal with the Security Council, particularly with certain known members of the council.

The paper warns Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission, against the mistake of following the aggressive U.S. policies and objectives. The paper says: Iraq will also be forced to review its dealings with Ekeus if he continues to follow the Americans' lead regarding what he will include in his report to the Security Council next Monday [10 October].

AL-THAWRAH reiterates the official spokesman's assertion yesterday that the people of Iraq will wait until 10 October, and then everyone will bear responsibility for their own position.

Given the developments seen over the past four years, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ believes that the issue of lifting the sanctions is not linked to the events unleashed on 2 August 1990. The paper adds: They [the allies] are targeting the whole of Iraq. They want to strip it of the components of its strength and power, to humiliate its people, to turn it into statelets, and to destroy its history and civilization.

The paper notes the negative response received to the positive Iraqi stand toward the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, saying: No matter what Iraq does, the United States will continue to make new demands and raise side issues aimed at procrastination and prevarication in order to prolong the inhuman blockade.

AL-'IRAQ adds: The United States is trying to place us in a vicious circle of deliberately-crafted, endless, and impossible demands, sometimes through using the Special Commission and its chairman Ekeus, and at other times through circumventing the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and placing them in labyrinths that have nothing whatsoever to do with the substance of these resolutions.

AL-'IRAQ notes the increasing number of voices in the United States that are asking what the U.S. Administration wants Iraq to do in order to obtain an end to the sanctions. It also mentions the deceptive and misleading answers provided, saying that U.S. Administration officials have always said that this issue concerns U.S. national security secrets.

The paper says it regrets the fact that the U.S. Administration has chosen to ignore the facts of history. It has chosen to overlook the historical fact that world peoples engage in struggle and jihad to confront tyranny as well as oppressive and repressive polices aimed at killing them. The paper adds: Living peoples who have historic leaders cannot place the keys to their future in the hands of invaders and coveters. As a matter of fact, they will fight and wage a jihad by all means available to defend their rights to sovereignty, life, and a prosperous future.

Opposition Said Engaging in 'Psychological Warfare'

MM0510114694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Some wings of the Iraqi opposition are moving toward using psychological warfare methods against the regime in Baghdad. An underground Iraqi movement has announced that it has begun to carry out operations in this direction. And that these operations include abducting party officials, brainwashing them, and then releasing them, guaranteeing their safety if they cooperate with the opposition.

Leaflets carrying the name "Iraqi National Resistance Movement" [harakat al-muqawamah al-wataniyah al-'iraqiyah] say that its elements burned portraits of Saddam Husayn in Mosul. While "other elements from the movement hosted party officials who agreed after extensive talks to cooperate to work to topple the regime. This happened in Karkuk and al-Basrah."

The movement distributed brief inciting leaflets in the main districts of the capital and major cities, warning that "elements hosted by it who refuse to cooperate will be punished for their insistence on working against the people and their higher interests, in the service of a bloodthirsty regime that is about to collapse."

Arrivals from Iraq spoke about operations in which senior party employees and officials were abducted over a period ranging between two weeks and three months, following which they were released without any known explanation for these operations.

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Columnist Stresses 'Final Victory' Over 'Enemies'

JN0510173794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Taha al-Basri: "The Crossing Will Inevitably Take Place"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since it was launched 25 years ago, the glorious 17-30 July revolution and its leadership have confronted and scored final victory over each challenge which threatened the country's security and safety and tried to harm the people's sovereignty and dignity. These confrontations derived from the militant heritage of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the launcher and leader of the revolution and the protector of its achievements and gains.

From the beginning, the revolution faced challenges such as espionage networks and plots to topple it after the enemies became convinced that the revolution had exceeded the limits allowed for other revolutions in developing countries or so-called Third World countries and that it was a unique revolution that had gradually turned into a source of enlightenment and uprising against backwardness, poverty, and injustice, from which Third World countries are suffering, although most of them possess resources of national wealth. If these resources are used properly in these countries, they will achieve qualitative development and progress.

This was followed by a decisive confrontation to nationalize the country's strategic and principal wealth, oil, from the rapacious companies that were supported by the big powers. This resulted in a large-scale awakening and development that placed Iraq among the industrially and culturally advanced countries. Therefore, Iraq was targeted and an aggression was planned to stop Iraq's progress and development. Iran launched its eight-year aggression, at the end of which the conflict was decided in favor of the revolution, which continued, to the disappointment of those who were behind the aggression and who wanted to destroy Iraq's economic power after they failed to destroy its military power and ability to develop and grow.

Therefore, an imperialist plan was worked out for the Kuwaiti rulers, agents, and some agent ruling families in the Arabian Gulf to carry out. That plan led to a decisive confrontation in defense of Iraq's legitimate right to a decent life, as well as the people's interests and their right to their national wealth, progress, and prosperity. Then the brutal 30-state aggression was launched, led by the United States, but which completely failed to achieve that plan. As a result, the still ongoing unjust blockade was imposed on Iraq.

Just as Iraq scored victory in all the decisive confrontations that targeted the revolution and tried to harm its gains, final victory in the current confrontation with the United States that insists on harming the Iraqi people will certainly be achieved through our people's determination, legendary steadfastness, and the unmatched leadership of mujahid President Saddam Husayn.

Hence, despite U.S. obstinacy and vileness, the international situation, and even those who contributed to imposing the blockade on Iraq, shows a growing demand for lifting the blockade. This indicates that a qualitative development will certainly take place during the Security Council's review next month, although the United States will oppose such a trend.

Regardless of the result of the upcoming review, our leadership's plan and our people's determination will ensure our crossing to the other bank, as President Saddam Husayn promised us in light of his full awareness of his people and their miraculous ability to remain patient, confront the enemies and injustice, and adhere to their right to a decent life guaranteed by the revolution.

Based on this, it is no longer a secret to the hostile forces, particularly the United States, that the result will inevitably be in favor of our people's steadfastness, which made these forces step up their hostility and increase their conditions [for lifting the embargo] imposed on Iraq, although many states showed various positive responses to Iraq's implementation of the Security Council's resolutions, regardless of whether they are legitimate or illegitimate.

Hence, comes leader President Saddam Husayn's statement, in which he said that everything has a limit. His excellency said: When we feel that the Iraqis may starve, we will, by God, open the world's silos. Let the enemies know well that the leader fulfills his promises.

Writer Proposes Austerity To Cope With Sanctions

JN0510175194 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 29 Sep 94 p 2

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin: "Austerity or Dishonorable Death"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When our people, one of the most enlightened among world peoples, opted to walk the road of freedom and dignity, they were aware of the immense sacrifices entailed. They were aware of a simple, yet basic fact; namely, that we live in a world dominated by forces whose only concern is to promote their selfish interests—forces that do not treasure freedom, dignity, or human rights, in spite of their claims to the contrary. As a matter of fact, these forces believe that the freedom of world peoples could conflict with their interests, purposes, and ambitions.

When Iraq sticks to its freedom and sovereignty, and employs its human and material resources to set a bright model, it becomes an object of enmity. This is because its influence goes beyond the geographic confines of Iraqi territory to include the entire Arab homeland. All of us are aware of the strategic importance of Iraq and the Arab homeland in terms of natural resources and critical strategic position, not to mention the superb human potential attested to by world civilizations and history.

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I am providing this introduction to say that Iraq was premeditatedly targeted regardless of whether or not its forces entered Kuwait.

Some have, unwittingly or ignorantly, argued that had we bided our time with regard to the issue of Kuwait, nothing of what we have suffered would have happened. Such an argument is meant to absolve the Americans and Zionists of any blame for our people's suffering, and to blame this suffering on perceived or alleged erroneous decisions. Well, I would like to say that no such erroneous decisions were made. How?

For, regardless of our well-known historical rights with regard to the issue of Kuwait, it was the Kuwaiti rulers who began the aggression and the war. Is economic warfare not a form of war?

Should we have waited until the Kuwaiti rulers completed the destruction of the Iraqi economy as a prelude to the destruction of the whole of Iraq? How could such waiting be of any avail to us?

Iraq has topped the priority list of the U.S. policy. The unique Iraqi experiment was meant to be destroyed. With experiment here, I mean the ability of a country with a small population to safeguard its sovereignty during an eight-year war, and to proceed with its quest for progress and prosperity. Regardless of whether or not our troops entered Kuwait, the U.S. objective would have remained unchanged. Creating pretexts for starting an aggression is very easy for people who have no human values or ethics.

They [the Americans] would have raised the pretext of Iraq's possession of mass [destruction] weapons. Have they not created a crisis with the DPRK, whose outcome is yet to be known, on the pretext of inspecting its nuclear reactors? By contrast, nobody has raised the issue of the Zionist entity's possession of some 1,000 nuclear warheads, to say the least. Had the economic war been unsuccessful, they would have pushed the Kuwaiti rulers to carry out a limited military aggression against us to prompt us to use our deterrent forces even if we had no plans to do so in the first place. Likewise, they might have raised the issue of our possession of long-range missiles, etcetera.

Evidence of this is not lacking. For all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, according to which Iraq is being beleaguered, were meant to make us withdraw our troops from Kuwait. Well, Iraq, of its own volition, withdrew its troops from Kuwait more than three and a half years ago. Why then is the siege continuing? You have seen how the excuse has changed. First it was the Kuwait issue. Then, it became the missiles issue. Afterward, it became Iraq's entire military industries. Later, it became Iraq's refusal to sanction the inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture. The inspections began with the reactors and ended up with the Ministry of Agriculture. Now, Iraq is being asked to accept the demarcation of borders that only exist in the minds of plotters.

Let us assume, hypothetically, that Iraq accepted the border demarcation, will then the series of excuses stop? Will the embargo be lifted, as some mistakenly believe? The answer is no.

Otherwise, how can the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY be so definite that the embargo will remain in place beyond the middle of 1995 although it has been claimed that any move on the embargo is contingent upon Iraq's conduct? Does this not mean that the embargo has nothing to do with Iraq's stands, and that it is only a reflection of premeditated malicious intentions?

O beloved ones, given all this, there are only two options for us: We must either capitulate become a violated, powerless, and openly plundered country; that is, if Iraq remains a country spared the fates of Afghanistan or Rwanda, or hold out and share our bread, even if each of us is to have a single morsel. This is because austerity for several months is better than dishonorable death. Our adherence to our objectives will bring an end to the sanctions. Such adherence is the guarantee to a life that is not only free, but also happy and prosperous.

If we pursue this line, we will not disappoint our nation, which views Iraq as a savior. Similarly, we will not disappoint the honorable world nations that have begun to view us as a model to be emulated. Likewise, we will not drive our offspring into desperation, nor will we disgrace them.

By a morsel of bread, a single date, and a glass of water, man can survive. By so doing, we would win both the present and the future.

So, let us proceed along that road.

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Beilin: No 'Separate' Accords With Syria, Lebanon

TA0610121094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin hopes that the national referendum over the future of the Golan Heights will be held in a few months. Beilin told our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv that, in his opinion, there can be no separate peace agreements between Israel and Syria and between Israel and Lebanon.

In reply to a question, Beilin confirmed that the issue of withdrawal from Lebanon had also been discussed in the framework of negotiations with Syria but refused to reveal any details. The deputy minister was the guest of Upper Nazareth Mayor Menahem Ari'av.

Peres Expects Further 'Goodwill Gestures' From Syria

TA0710070894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that he hopes Syria will make additional goodwill gestures toward the Israeli public in the wake of the statements made by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who reiterated yesterday following his meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher that President Hafiz al-Asad has made a strategic decision to attain peace with Israel. Our correspondent Arye Shaqed spoke with Foreign Minister Peres in Los Angeles:

[Begin recording] [Peres] This constitutes nothing new because President al-Asad himself has spoken about this strategic decision. We do not doubt Syria's strategic decision, but we expect it to be translated into the language of negotiations between two equal parties, with neither party attempting to dictate its positions to the other as a precondition for continued negotiations.

[Shaqed] Nevertheless, the Syrian foreign minister said that his country insists on stationing UN forces on the Golan Heights and not U.S. troops as demanded by Israel.

[Peres] I think it is still premature to discuss this issue since we have not reached any agreement regarding the handling of negotiations, which must be simultaneous or must, in other words, include a discussion of security arrangements, the nature of peace, the time frame for a trial period, as well as the scope of withdrawal. Any discussion of the UN issue is still some time away.

[Shaqed] The Syrian minister rejected the concept of a trial period during which the withdrawal would be spread out over several years. In his meeting with Warren Christopher, al-Shar' said that Syria realizes that Israel could not withdraw overnight but questions why a pullout on the Golan Heights should take longer than the evacuation of the entire Sinai Peninsula.

[Peres] Well, the problem is that the Syrians constantly think that we have to begin negotiations by accepting their positions. This is a mistake. The Syrian and Israeli opening positions are widely divergent. That is why negotiations are necessary. Not because we expect them to accept our viewpoint or they expect us to accept their position, but rather in order to permit both sides to meet each other halfway and find a third option that meets the requirements of peace without harming the interests of either party.

[Shaqed] Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said today in Amman that Jordan expects Syria and Israel to agree on an agenda for negotiations by next month. Are these expectations well founded?

[Peres] I gather that this was more of an assessment than a statement based on hard facts.

[Shaqed] Should we expect the resumption of covert or overt negotiations with Syria during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming shuttle mission?

[Peres] Look, first of all I believe that without this trip there would be no prospect of making progress. Now that the shuttle mission is scheduled to take place, I hope that additional progress can be made. I am sure that Mr. Christopher will make a supreme effort, and I learned as much at our latest meeting. We will do our best to help him promote the negotiations.

[Shaqed] Let me ask you about your meetings with the foreign ministers of Qatar, Oman, and other states. We understand here in Israel that additional countries may open interests offices.

[Peres] We are paving the way for the expansion of Israel's relations with a larger network of countries, and I hope that it will not be long before these efforts prove fruitful.

[Shaqed] Can you name countries that plan to open interests offices in Israel in the near future?

[Peres] Much like you, I prefer to report news that has already happened and not just make predictions. [end recording]

Policemen Depart for Haiti; Police Minister Comments

TA0610120094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] An Israeli police team of 28 male and two female officers set off for Haiti today. They are to monitor local police activities there and share their knowledge and experience with senior Haitian officers regarding how to run a democratic community police service. They will be armed with pistols, but for self-defense only, and will not be taking part in regular street patrols or other daily activities. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami was at Ben-Gurion Airport this morning when the Israeli delegation left.

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[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] [passage omitted] After seeing the delegation off at Ben-Gurion Airport, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said it was an important day for Israel, as well as for the delegation.

[Shahal] This is the first time that a military or police force is taking part in a United Nations mission, and I think it is part of the normalization process involving Israel's being accepted as part of the international community almost everywhere.

[Ben-'Ami] How much concern is there that despite all the plans and the hopes you may find some of your policemen involved in violent incidents?

[Shahal] A lot of concern, and I think that any person who has the responsibility—and I have the responsibility—has to be very sensitive about this question. I hope and I pray that all of them return to Israel safely. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PRC's Zou Objects to Ties With Dalai Lama, Taiwan

TA0610173794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Oct 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin yesterday, Chinese Vice Premier Zou Jiahua urged Israel not to establish official relations with the Dalai Lama or the Government of Taiwan. Zou said that "the Dalai Lama is very active around the world and wants to separate Tibet from China." He added that the Dalai Lama "is no longer a religious leader," and urged Israel not to accept or recognize him.

Referring to Taiwan, Zou said that "it is trying to create two Chinese states, or one China and one Taiwan, whereas we believe in one China. It tried to do as much during the Asian Games but failed. China does not object to countries having nongovernmental ties with Taiwan, but is opposed to governmental activities by countries which maintain diplomatic relations with China."

Zou stressed that China has no complaints against Israel on either count and that he is aware of the fact that Israel recognizes only one China, but he nevertheless beseeches all countries not to respond to the activities of the Dalai Lama and of Taiwan.

Jerusalem Mayor on Peace Accord, Likud Policy

BR0610155694 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 5 Oct 94 p 6

[Interview with Ehud Olmert, mayor of Jerusalem and Likud leading figure, by Herman Amelink in The Hague on 5 October: "Likud Will Not Totally Reverse Peace Process"—first two paragraphs are NRC HANDELSBLAD introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ehmud Olmert (49) who in November last year decisively beat the 83-year-old Teddy Kollek in the elections for mayor of Jerusalem, is one of the leading figures in the Likud party. Between 1988 and 1992 he was principal adviser to Prime Minister Shamir on Arab affairs and before that minister for public health. He is seen as one of the "king makers" in his party.

His visit to the Netherlands is not intended to raise financial support, he says, but principally intended to make it clear that "Jerusalem must remain the united, undivided capital of Israel, where believers of all religions, Jews, Muslims, and Christians, can live together in peace."

[Amelink] What are Likud's principal objections to the peace policy of the present government?

[Olmert] We are totally opposed to any possible withdrawal of Israel from the Golan Heights. Many Labor Party members are also against this. Also, the implementation of the peace accord with the PLO is raising doubts about the PLO sincerity and responsibility. We are seriously concerned about this.

[Amelink] If Likud were returned to power, would you undo the agreements made?

[Olmert] We are not going to just cancel everything. We will study the situation and then determine what must and must not be changed. We will not return to power with the commitment to simply undo everything which has been done.

[Amelink] What has changed in Jerusalem since you have been in power?

[Olmert] It is very difficult to come up with concrete results after just 10 months following 28 years of Kollek administration. It would be pretentious to make a comparison. We are trying to improve education. We have started this year, but it will certainly take three or four years. We also want to make Jerusalem the cultural center of Israel. And we have started a very ambitious infrastructure development program. We are trying to improve housing and provide 15,000 new homes in the next five years. We are also busy building many new hotels to meet the increasing demand.

[Amelink] What is your position on the decentralization of the Jerusalem government in the framework of the peace agreement with the Palestinians?

[Olmert] I support decentralization, but provided it does not result in a divided city. We must decentralize in a manner which would do away wuth the old opposition between East and West Jerusalem. I am against any restructuring which interferes with the single, undivided Jerusalem.

[Amelink] Do you think that King Husayn of Jordan should have a say in the way the holy places aregoverned?

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[Olmert] I have no objection to a joint management of holy places via the Wafq, the Islamic organization in which King Husayn plays an important role. It is an appropriate form of government as it implies that Jordan has no territorial claims on the city. I would welcome a visit by King Husayn to Jerusalem. I have already invited him.

[Amelink] Do you also extend the invitation to 'Arafat?

[Olmert] There is a big difference between 'Arafat and other Arab leaders who make no claims on the city. 'Arafat still wants to wage a Jihad, a holy war, for Jerusalem and against the Jewish presence there. I consider it irresponsible to allow him to come to Jerusalem. Only when the time is ripe, when the unity of the city is no longer in question, will I cease to have my reservations regarding a visit by 'Arafat.

[Amelink] There is the matter of the Orient House of Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem, and which in practice has become a sort of Palestinian Embassy. How do you view that?

[Olmert] I believe Orient House should be closed. Faysal al-Husayni presents himself as mayor of East Jerusalem. But he has not been elected or appointed to any such position. He represents only himself. I have never spoken with Faysal al-Husayni, despite the rumors which are circulating. I am prepared to welcome him to the city hall if he is prepared to recognize me as mayor of a single, undivided Jerusalem.

[Amelink] You were elected due to the support of the ultra-orthodox Jews. What political consequences does that have for you?

[Olmert] I was elected "partly" due to the support of the orthodox Jews. But I would also have been elected without them. The margin between Kollek and myself was 25 percent. The orthodox Jews accounted for 20 percent of this. I would have been elected without them. They want certain provisions, such as the separation of men and women on city buses which pass through their areas. But in practice there is no problem. I am not dependent upon them, even in the event of any reelection.

[Amelink] You are meeting with the Christians for Israel Association here in the Netherlands. Many Christians are leaving Jerusalem. Do you feel involved?

[Olmert] Yes. It is important for Jerusalem to remain a city of religious pluralism. Many Christians fear the Muslims will have undue influence. I tell them that they need not fear this. And I tell them that the city shall remain a single unit.

[Amelink] Under whose leadership is Likud going to fight the next elections against the Labor Party?

[Olmert] Under Netanyahu and I will support him. In the past, I supported Benjamin Begin in the Likud leadership contest. And the Rabin government will certainly lose, because that is the way of democracy.

Shahaq Appointed New Chief of General Staff

TA0610172494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Amnon Shahaq will be the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] 15th chief of the General Staff. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin informed Gen. Shahaq of this decision a short while ago.

Rabin is now meeting with Generals Matan Vilna'i, Uri Sagi, and Yitzhaq Mordekhay. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a decision on the next deputy chief of staff is not expected today. The decision will not be made before the cabinet approves Gen. Shahaq's appointment next Sunday.

The new chief of staff will take over on 1 January [1995].

IDF Recommends Against Total Withdrawal From Golan

TA0710101694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Oct 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The General Staff's proposal for an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal line on the Golan Heights, which was presented to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, includes a recommendation against a total withdrawal, even in times of peace.

The authors point out that from the military viewpoint the best option would be for the line's northern end to pass through one of the pinnacles of Mount Hermon and its southern end to pass through the Afiq junction in the southern part of the Golan Heights. The line between these two points would "bulge" westward toward the Jordan River but would run in its entirety over the promontory overlooking the Hula Valley.

The General Staff discussed the issue for a year from the professional rather than political viewpoint and decided on the most militarily suitable line on the Golan Heights in the context of an arrangement with the Syrians.

At one time, the draft was coordinated by Major General Ilan Biran, before he was appointed commander of the Central Command. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq had this line in mind when he said that the IDF's recommendation to the politicians is not to withdraw completely, rather to have the withdrawal line run on the Golan Heights. Asked about the IDF's withdrawal line during his meeting in Washington with John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Baraq cited the aforementioned line.

The IDF's stance is that the army must retain one of Mount Hermon's pinnacles so as to have a good early warning position. Other pinnacles occupied in the Yom

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Kippur War, such as the Syrian outpost on Mount Hermon, are currently held by a UN unit.

The southern end of the line goes through the Afiq junction (known by the Syrians as Fiq), where the highway from Damascus to the al-Yarmuk Valley and al-Hammah passed. Afiq lies 6 km west of Lake Tiberias, at an altitude of 500 meters. The thought behind making the line pass through Afiq was to defend Lake Tiberias and keep the Syrians away from it.

The central part of the line leaves most of the Israeli settlements on the Golan outside Israeli territory, but even at its westernmost point it runs entirely over the promontory overlooking the Hula Valley. To repeat, this is the military recommendation of the General Staff, but such a line is not very likely to be demarcated or endorsed by the Syrians. [passage omitted]

IDF Issues Guidelines on Handling Settlers

TA0710131394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Oct 94 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past few weeks, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been distributing a manual outlining the procedures for enforcing law and order on Israelis in the territories. HA'ARETZ is disclosing the main points of the manual, which was drafted in the wake of the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs and the recommendations of the Shamgar Commission.

According to the author, Major Riqi Lavi, the purpose of the manual is to lay out the guidelines and methods of operation of IDF and Israel Police troops dealing with rioting settlers in order to enforce law and order on the basis of cooperation among the security troops operating in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"As a rule," the manual says, "there should be no use of force, and rioters should be dispersed with a strong but gentle hand. In the event of clashes that do not involve violence against people or property, the preferred approach should be to disperse the rioters through negotiations and compromise by setting a realistic deadline for their dispersal."

The manual addresses a variety of issues, such as the definition of a riot and the measures that must be taken to stop it, rules of engagement, collection of evidence, the escorting of detainees, and law enforcement procedures in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, particularly in areas where there is cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian police.

The manual points out that the IDF will be in charge of restoring order, while the Israel Police will be in charge of law enforcement in the Israeli settlements. Responsibility for bringing lawbreakers to trial will rest with the Israel Police and the State Attorney's Office.

A "riot" is defined as an illegal activity that disturbs the public peace and bears the characteristics of a public protest, such as blocking roads and intersections, setting tires on fire, breaking windows, turning over market stalls, and committing arson.

As a preemptive measure, the issue of riots should be discussed at periodic evaluations conducted by the security services. Any organization receiving information about attempts by Israelis to disturb public order must notify its superiors and its affiliated intelligence units.

"In the event that an Israeli illegally endangers the life of others, fire will be opened only in accordance with the guidelines governing the use of weapons," the manual states.

The manual goes on to specify the troops that should be assigned to deal with extraordinary events: "a unit to cordon off and secure the scene of the incident, a Border Police or Military Police unit to disperse the rioters, a unit to document and photograph the event, representatives of the Civil Administration, medical troops, a unit to escort detainees, and police investigators."

The manual cites the equipment to be put at the disposal of the security forces, such as roadblocks, photography equipment and film, microphones, vehicles to transport detainees, tear gas, and water cannons.

Measures to prevent or stop riots should include the following stages: declaring the area a closed military zone or clamping a curfew, setting up lookouts and roadblocks to prevent the arrival of other rioters, isolating the rioters, and reopening blocked roads.

The new procedures apply to Israeli settlements and military installations along the border with Egypt, as well as the roads linking settlements in the Gaza Strip to Israeli areas not under the control of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Consequently, the Israeli side in the joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols will be responsible for dealing with the riots while keeping the PA informed.

In the Jericho area, the procedures will apply to Highway No. 90, in the section of the road crossing al-'Awja' from north to south and the east-west road linking up with it. Riots on Highway No. 90, which crosses through the area controlled by the PA, will be handled by the Israeli side in the joint patrols.

The Palestinian police will be directly responsible for dealing with Israeli rioters in areas controlled by the PA, because the IDF does not maintain a permanent presence there. "The Palestinian police are entitled to take measures to stop disturbances and restore normal life and are entitled to detain Israeli rioters, while protecting them until the arrival of the Israeli security forces.

"The Israeli security forces will be immediately summoned to the scene by the liaison bureaus. If Israel learns about disturbances by Israelis in those areas and its security forces have not been summoned, the regional

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command will approach the Palestinian police to coordinate the entry of Israeli security troops to deal with the rioters," the manual adds.

The manual goes on to say that the general in charge of the regional command (or his replacement) has the authority to order Israeli troops to enter areas controlled by the Palestinians to deal with riots. This would be in the event of failure to coordinate with the Palestinian police and if the lives of the Israelis involved in the rioting are in danger.

The manual stresses that in any incident where Israelis illegally use weapons, the first measure should be to stop the use of arms. Whenever a policeman or a soldier witnesses Israelis attacking a local Arab or Arab property, the perpetrator may be detained or arrested and handed over to the Israel Police.

If the suspect refuses to go along with the security forces, the soldier is entitled to arrest him and inform him that he is being arrested due to the misdemeanor attributed to him. The regulations enable soldiers to use reasonable force in the event that suspects resist arrest.

[A report by the same correspondent on page A1 adds that Likud Knesset Member Ron Nahman is demanding that the IDF immediately rescind the manual. Nahman argues that "the manual proves that instead of the Israel Police enforcing public order, the IDF is busy doing police work and actually serving as the political arm of the government."]

Cave of Patriarchs To Reopen 31 Oct

TA0710095394 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Oct 94 p A2

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Makhpela Cave will officially reopen for prayer on October 31, the chief rabbis were told yesterday by the prime minister's adviser on religious affairs, Yisra'el Lipel.

However, it has apparently not yet been decided how to implement the separation between Moslem and Jewish worshipers—whether to assign them separate days, or to assign them separate prayer halls. [passage omitted]

Expert Comments on Golan Security Arrangements

TA0710125594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST (NEWS IN FOCUS supplement) in English 7 Oct 94 p B3

[Article by Dore Gold, director of the U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy Project at the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In his October 5 Knesset address, Prime Minister Rabin no longer referred to Israel retaining specific territorial assets on the Golan Heights.

Instead, he now enumerated, for the first time, specific security arrangements intended to safeguard Israel after a withdrawal.

But as Israeli-Syrian negotiations begin to flesh out the military details of these arrangements, it is doubtful that Rabin will be able to resist erosion of his position in the security realm any more than he previously managed to hold out in the territorial dimension.

Until now, the Syrian-Israeli negotiations focused on the depth of Israel's withdrawal and the depth of peace Syria would offer in return. Security arrangements were referred to, only in passing, by Israeli officials.

Undefined, these seemed to be innocuous minor details that would be worked out by teams of experts, once agreement was reached on the larger issues.

The very idea that security arrangements could be considered a substitute for Israeli control of disputed strategic territory was born in the peace treaty with Egypt.

The security problem posed by Egypt's huge standing forces, outnumbering Israel's largely reserve army, was solved by creating three limited-forces zones across the Sinai Peninsula. These kept the bulk of Egypt's armored forces 220 kilometers away, on the other side of the Suez Canal.

Foreign visitors to the Golan Heights are often showed the positions from which Syrian artillery harassed kibbutzim prior to the Six Day War. This often suggests that Golan security arrangements require only the removal of Syrian howitzers.

But Israel's real problem is not artillery, but the huge Syrian tank forces that stretch back from the Golan to Damascus. At the start of the Yom Kippur War, the Syrians had 1,400 tanks in this sector, against 177 tanks on the Israeli side.

Any attempt to devise security arrangements in lieu of Israeli control of the Golan Heights would have to deal with such force asymmetries. Rabin mentioned, in his Knesset speech, the option of instituting mutual, but asymmetrical, demilitarized zones.

If he could throw back the bulk of the Syrian Army 220 kilometers into the interior of Syria, then he might begin to address Israel's security problem in the North.

But any deep demilitarization agreement would run into Damascus, which is only some 60 kilometers from the current cease-fire line. No military dictatorship could agree to arms limitations around its capital, especially since the Syrian regime is maintained in power by Republican Guard divisions with T-72 tanks.

The limited applicability of Sinai-size demilitarized zones to the Golan region may have led Rabin to suggest a second sort of security arrangement that has no precedent in Arab-Israeli peace accords—the mutual reduction of the standing armies of both Syria and Israel.

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It is not clear why Rabin mentioned "mutual" reductions when, according to foreign sources, Syria's overall standing divisions outnumber those of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] by a ratio of 4 to 1 and as much as 12 to 1 in the greater area around the Golan itself (including Lebanon).

Rabin may be hoping he can still make these cuts on an asymmetric basis by getting the Syrians to slash several divisions, while Israel just cuts a battalion.

Still, Rabin will find that he faces serious obstacles in getting the Syrians to seriously cut back the size of their standing army. Beyond their concerns for internal security, the Syrians will claim their armed forces are needed for threats from other directions that have nothing to do with Israel—both Turkey and Iraq have huge land armies that are likely to grow in the years ahead.

Israel might suggest that the Syrians put some of their standing divisions on reserve status. But strategic experts from the Arab world claim this would be a non-starter for the Syrians.

It is difficult for an advanced industrial state like Israel to maintain combat-ready reserve units. In a Syrian context, such reserve formations would have only marginal military utility, they argue.

Any security arrangements that seek to limit the military potential of Israel's adversaries must be verifiable; both sides have to be sure that military agreements are being strictly maintained.

In Sinai, a specifically defined area is carefully scrutinized by each party, or by peacekeeping troops, whose task it is to move about the zone and count the number of tanks or artillery deployed.

But in the case of mutual cutbacks in standing armies, verification cannot be limited to a given area; the monitoring of such an agreement would have to extend to all of Syria and Israel. This would be somewhat analogous to the 1990 Conventional Forces Europe (CFE) Treaty, by which NATO and the Warsaw Pact slashed the numbers of tanks and other weapons on each side.

To make these cutbacks credible, the CFE established on-site inspections, by which NATO officers could actually visit military sites throughout the Eastern bloc and vice versa.

Would Syria be willing to open itself entirely to regular inspections by American or other peace-keepers? Damascus is hardly ready for such a development. The former Soviet bloc countries accepted this sort of openness only after their authoritarian regimes were dissolving or had fallen from power.

Rabin's greatest challenge in devising for Israel some form of substitute security, without the Golan Heights, is to come up with a model that not only works on the military drawing board, but is also diplomatically acceptable to the Syrians.

Even in order to regain the Golan Heights, it is hardly worth it for Hafiz al-Asad to place his whole country under the scrutiny of international inspectors.

Moreover, Rabin faces another serious problem. Security arrangements are easy to erode in the negotiating process. Once its claim to Sinai was secure, Egypt found it easy to reject many Israeli demands for security arrangements, including Israeli early warning stations and airfields that Israel hoped to keep on Egyptian soil.

With its sovereignty over the Golan acknowledged by the Rabin government, Syria should have little difficulty resisting similar Israeli requests.

A territorial negotiation is black and white; land belongs to one side or the other. Security arrangements involve a wide range of negotiable grays, depending on the extent of any military limitations.

Israeli security interests on the Golan Heights would have been best protected by Israeli sovereignty; it remains to be seen how they will be safeguarded now that the Rabin government is dropping reference to Israel's territorial claims.

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British Minister Meets Birri, Comments on Talks

NC0610133694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth office, met Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri today.

Afterward Douglas Hogg said that Resolution 425 should be at the heart of any agreement concluded between Lebanon and Israel. He voiced his optimism that an agreement will be reached involving Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. He added that the Israeli forces will withdraw from south Lebanon and the Syrian Golan.

Asked whether Britain is working to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from the south, Douglas Hogg said: Yes. Minister Douglas Hurd stressed that Resolution 425 is a basic part of the agreement. We believe that no firm and permanent agreement can be reached if it does not include Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

Western Support for Anti-Saudi Group Criticized

NC0610124594 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 3 Oct 94 pp 4-5

[Article by Chief Editor Hasan Sabra: "This Western Interest in an Anti-Islam Obscurantist Group"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The West regards all the Islamist groups that carry out violent acts and oppose the ruling regimes in the Islamic world and the Arab homeland as terrorists who must be eradicated, except in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The West sees the opposition Saudi group as a political movement that advocates the application of Islamic shari'ah and therefore deserves backing. How does the West do that?

Western media give this movement full coverage and offer all available facilities to its members to advocate the ideas of their leaders, some of whom are fugitives, via audiovisual and printed media organs, particularly those that reach our region.

Why?

Because the West and its media do not like the tolerant image projected by the Saudi Kingdom led by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. The West considers this tolerant image a strong blow to its political, social, and ideological beliefs, which, over the years, have produced Nazism, Fascism, Marxism, organized terrorism, philosophies of chaos, and the movements of moral dissolution with their attendant diseases, the last of which is AIDS.

On the Right, the West produced, at the beginning of this century, the Fascist and Nazi organizations and other racist movements that now, at the end of the 20th century, are reviving their roles with new European faces, particularly in France, Britain, Italy, and ... [ellipsis as published] Germany. In Germany such revived movements are waging the worst form of violent attack against Arabs, Muslims, Middle Easterners, and indeed against anyone whose skin color is different from the various shades of European complexions, whether these are yellow, white, orange, or pink.

On the Left, the West produced a Marxist ideology that abolished people's initiative and feelings and turned them into mute machines that toiled for decades and then collapsed, rusted and dead. The West is now trying to find a substitute for Marxism to restore the machine-like humans who have no feeling or initiative and think not with their heads, but their bellies.

It dismays this hostile, racist West when Islam projects an image of modern life guided by keen intelligence, enlightened ideas, solid social and family values and relations, and conscientious individuals whose conscience is drawn from their religion. It is a religion that calls for kindness to blood relatives, for paying the alms tax, social justice, openness to the world, and the quest for knowledge. Indeed the Koran's first verse is: Read.

The West fights this religion and its advocacy of tolerance, which is embodied by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Islamic policy. The West's hostility grows when it views with amazement how 2 million people, of diverse traditions, languages, dialects, and skin color, come annually from the various corners of the earth to perform the hajj in a spirit of Islamic harmony and without incident, without a slap in a face, and without a foot losing its hold. God's assistance, the purity of the Muslims' intentions, and the soundness of the Kingdom's policy guide the Saudi political leadership in serving the pilgrims who visit God's house. This arouses the West's envy, especially as it cannot even control the spectators at a football match who turn, in this day and age, at the end of the 20th century, into a mob reminiscent of the Middle Ages. Dozens of them fall dead or wounded bringing down with them all the allegations of a united civilization. It is a civilization only of technology. True civilization is the civilization of the mind, creed, work, and the human being himself.

This West, which is concerned about Islam, in its stronghold in Saudi Arabia, shedding crocodile tears over a group of obscurantists against the perpetuation of Islam in the souls of the Muslim people, does not tolerate the existence of an entire nation of Muslims in Bosnia, who barely know anything about Islam. This West opens for them a hellfire emanating from a complex crusade full of hatred. The West should have ceased this hatred of the Bosnians just because they are Muslims instead of opening its arms and mass media to shadowy elements against Islam, viewing them as a group worthy of support because they give a bad impression of Muslims.

The West opposes any Islamic action against any friendly regime, even if this action has an economic, cultural, and social background. The West itself supports any shadowy Islamic act that considers tolerant Islam in

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Saudi Arabia as inadequate and seeks extremism and isolation to bury the Islamic civilization.

One of the weird Western policies is this peculiar interest in propagating very extremist movements that are against Islam's sound path, enlightened approach, and tolerant practices. To anyone who does not yet know about this shadowy stance that the West consolidates in the minds of some opponents in the Kingdom, we say that their primary objection is to the Kingdom's wise policy everywhere, especially in the eastern region.

Their second objection is to the presence of a consultative council and their third objection is to the modern administrative system that has come into force in the Kingdom. Their objections are directed to the Islamic unity embodied by the Kingdom's policy toward various Islamic sects. Their objections are to the Kingdom maintaining relations with the Islamic countries and sponsoring the Muslims' causes. This is in addition to other objections by some malicious people in the West who harbor these shadowy groups and promote and adopt their cause.

Away from mockery and laughter, we ask how long the West will think the people are stupid when it assails extremism everywhere, but in Saudi Arabia, which is fighting against terrorism, terrorism that is harbored by the West without hesitation.

The issue goes beyond mockery; it is a cheap and flagrant political blackmail by the West, the officials of which arrest anyone with a dark skin in the streets of Paris just because he is dark and accuse him of having Islamic ideas, identity, or name. This takes place while all the mass media of the West volunteer to adopt those who view the Kingdom's policy as void of true Islam because this policy is lenient. Thus they propagate black ideas, which the West claims to fight everywhere, except when the situation concerns a group of backward obscurantists who are working against a sound, enlightened Islam.

Hizballah Announces Death of Officer in Bosnia

NC0610114494 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Ramzi 'Ali Mahdi was the only person whose martyrdom in Bosnia-Herzegovina was announced by Hizballah. Actually he was the fourth Hizballah military training officer to be killed during a mission to train Bosnian troops.

Military Operations, Incidents in South Reported

Israeli Forces Continue Bombardment

NC0610190894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Israeli occupation forces continued their acts of aggression against the south areas today. According to the latest security reports from the south, the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mazra'at al-Hamra', and the al-Litani river basin have come under Israeli artillery barrage originating in the Israeli posts in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah. The bombardment was accompanied by bursts of machine-gun fire. In addition, the outskirts of Zibqin, Majdal Zun, and al-Mansuri were the target of 155-mm rockets. In the meantime, the Israeli forces directed 12.7-mm machine-gun fire at adjacent valleys.

In the central sector, the Israeli forces raked the Buyut al-Sayyid farm and adjacent valleys with machine guns amid intensive overflights by Israeli warplanes. At the same time, the Israeli forces raked (Wadi al-'Izziyah) and (Wadi al-Nafkhah).

In the eastern sector, an armored force consisting of five armored vehicles and approximately 40 personnel belonging to agent Antoine Lahd's militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] carried out a large-scale raking operation on the contact lines in the eastern sector north of Hasbayya. They also raked the area around Shwayya and fired artillery rounds at (Jabal al-Bustami), Mazra'at 'Ayn Tanta, and the Shwayya-Shab'a road. The shelling reached Mimis, Jabal al-Nasr, and (Mazra'at 'Ayn Bsur). The operation lasted for two hours.

The Israeli military aircraft made intensive flights over the south and staged mock raids over western al-Biqa' and the eastern sector for 30 minutes, firing flares over Jabal Abu Rashid and the Mount Hermon heights. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a security source has denied a report disseminated by media organs citing a statement by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine about a landing attempt by an Israeli commando unit on the Nahr al-Barid refugee camp in north Lebanon on the night before the last and the death of a Palestinian during the confrontation. The source said that there was no Israeli attempt at landing and that the Army forces are vigilant and ready to repulse any Israeli aggression. According to a NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY report, the dead man, Mahdi Husayn, was killed during a clash between two Palestinian groups in the Nahr al-Barid camp.

Three Killed in Explosions

NC0610174994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A device planted in a shop adjacent to the Modern Bint Jubayl Pharmacy in Bint Jubayl exploded at 1700 today while the civilian committee of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] was meeting with Lieutenant Colonel 'Aql Hashim.

According to preliminary reports, two persons were killed and a number of others were wounded. It was learned that Lt. Col. 'Aql Hashim was slightly injured. Patients in the Bint Jubayl Hospital were evacuated and

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the SLA took stringent security measures and banned entry into and exit from the town.

One of the two killed was Hani Baydun, a Bint Jubayl resident. The identity of the second person is not yet known because of the corpse's condition.

Our security correspondent has just reported that only one person was killed and not two. The dead person is Hani Baydun. He also reported that there are six injured persons. They include Lt. Col. 'Aql Hashim, commander of the western brigade in the SLA, and his injuries are reported to be slight. After being taken to the Bint Jubayl Hospital for dressing his wounds, he went back and visited the site of the explosion. Nimr Daghir, owner of the pharmacy, and his wife were also moderately injured. The other ones injured were Mahmud Bazzi, Layla Muruwwah, and Husayn Hashim. All of them received slight injuries.

Our security correspondent said that a device exploded on the main street of Hula half an hour before the Bint Jubayl explosion. The Hula explosion occurred while a civilian Jeep was passing by. Two SLA soldiers were killed and three civilians were injured in the explosion. The injured civilians included two women and a man who happened to be at the site of the explosion.

The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the operation a short time ago. It said that the operation took place in a security center adjacent to the pharmacy.

Shelling, Resistance Operations Reported

NC0710082994 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Zionist acts of aggression against the peaceful southern villages continued overnight and lasted until early this morning. At 2030 last night the occupation troops shelled the outskirts of Sujud. This was accompanied by Israeli helicopter flights at low altitude. At 0100 today the occupation troops fired three shells at the outskirts of Majdal Silm. They also fired flares, illuminating the sky over Shaqra village. The troops raked Shaqra Valley from their position in Hula. At 0430 al-Jabal al-Rafi' came under 155-mm fire from the al-'Ayshiyah post. The shelling lasted until 0530. At 0445, 10 150-mm shells were fired [sentence incomplete as heard].

At 0500 Sujud village came under 105-mm fire from the Sujud position. The occupation troops stationed in al-Rayhan fired 18 120-mm shells at the village of ('Imqata).

Faced with this aggression the Islamic Resistance has carried out a series of operations against patrols and positions of the enemy and its Agents. The Islamic Resistance mujahidin yesterday detonated explosive devices against the Israeli occupation troops and their Agents in the occupied border zone, killing or wounding several enemy troops. The first device was detonated against a Lahd [South Lebanese Army] infantry patrol along the Kunin-Bint Jubayl road. The second targeted a military jeep passing along the Hula-Mays al-Jabal road. The jeep was burned out and those inside were killed. The third device was detonated at a security office in Bin Jubayl, where Agent 'Aql Hashim, commander of the Western Brigade, was chairing a security meeting. The explosion left several Agents dead or wounded. [passage omitted]

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Al-Shar', Christopher Hold Meeting, News Conference

Washington Meeting Reported

JN0610142094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Syrian embassy in Washington last night.

The meeting was attended by Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Middle East and North Africa, and Walid al-Mu'allim, the Syrian ambassador in Washington. Talks dealt with the international situation and developments in the peace process.

The meeting was followed by a dinner banquet held by Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim on the occasion of al-Shar's visit. The banquet was attended by a number of congressmen, ranking White House and State Department officials, and a number of Arab ambassadors.

Joint News Conference Held

JN0610222394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An official round of talks was held at the U.S. State Department in Washington this afternoon between the Syrian side, headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the U.S. side, headed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim and on the U.S. side by peace process coordinator Dennis Ross.

Afterwards, Christopher hosted a luncheon in honor of al-Shar'. It was attended by (Tom Dimilon), assistant U.S. secretary of state for public relations; Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern and North African affairs; Mrs. Joan Spiro, assistant secretary of state for economic affairs; and Martin Indyk, special assistant to President Clinton on Middle Eastern Affairs.

Talks centered on the peace process, the situation in the region, and relations between Syria and the United States and ways to improve them.

The talks were described as positive and constructive and as having taken place in a cordial and frank atmosphere.

Faruq al-Shar' stressed that since the Madrid conference, Syria has been seeking to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, which it considers a strategic option and that President Hafiz al-Asad explained on several occasions that Syria was committed to comprehensive peace and was ready to meet the requirements of peace.

At a joint news conference he held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the end of their talks at the U.S. State Department today, al-Shar' said that these requirements should be objective and agreed on, foremost of which is a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

For his part, Christopher voiced satisfaction with the role Washington is playing to facilitate the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. According to Christopher, this role has achieved some progress. He reiterated his country's readiness to continue its role in helping the negotiating parties by any possible means. He voiced satisfaction with President Hafiz al-Asad's readiness to address what he termed as the outstanding difficult issues on this track as well as with al-Asad's public commitment to working for a comprehensive peace.

Michael McCurry, spokesman for the U.S. Department of State, had to end the news conference due to the clamor and chaos caused by a number of Israeli journalists who attended the conference and vied with one another to pose provocative questions to al-Shar'. They also protested against the fact that al-Shar' does not speak to the Israeli press.

Al-Shar' said he had held numerous news conferences in which he did not discriminate against any journalist. McCurry had to end the news conference after failing to stop the Israeli journalists' clamor.

Christopher had lauded the statements and positions announced by President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' about Syria's commitment to the peace process as a strategic option. In a statement in Washington before his meeting with al-Shar' today, Christopher pledged that the United States will do its best to achieve a breakthrough in the peace negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track.

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Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Urges More Democratic UN System

BK0610143394 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman has called for making the UN system more democratic and [word indistinct]. He emphatically said that the small countries in the UN are facing great difficulties and added that the interests of these countries should be taken into consideration before making any move aimed at reforming or restructuring the world body. He was addressing the foreign ministers of the nonaligned group at the UN headquarters. Reiterating the firm and moral stand taken by Bangladesh on the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the foreign minister stressed the urgent need for a political settlement of this problem. The Bangladesh foreign minister said that the Nonaligned Movement has always called for a just, comprehensive, and permanent settlement in the Middle East. Referring to the forthcoming third session of the preparatory committee of the Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] conference to be held next year, the foreign minister said that Bangladesh as a signatory of the NPT is committed to nuclear disarmament. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said that recent developments relating to a comprehensive arms ban treaty and reduction of arms production are very welcome in the light of the NPT conference to be held next year. He said there are two aspects of this conference which will be addressed next year: the issue of revision and the issue of extension. The foreign minister of Bangladesh said that these two aspects are undoubtedly related to each other, adding that the member countries of the Nonaligned Movement should keep an eye on them.

Commonwealth To Mediate Government, Opposition Talks

BK0410142994 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 27 Sep 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman and the leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, have agreed to hold talks under the mediation of the Commonwealth for resolving the political differences between them. The Commonwealth press release issued yesterday announced that a consensus has been reached between the two leaders for the holding of direct talks. It quoted the commonwealth secretary general, Emeka Anyaoku, as saying "I have presented to them a three-point formula for holding of talks. I am happy to say that both Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman and the leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, have agreed to my proposals," reports BSS [Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha press agency]. The press release added that the Commonwealth secretary general held several rounds of talks with the two sides during his recent visit to Bangladesh. It quoted the commonwealth secretary general as saying "Because of this I am continuing to maintain contacts with the concerned quarters. I hope that it will be possible to immediately start a dialogue and that it will be possible to resolve the prevailing deadlock through talks." The secretary general said that he will send an envoy to Bangladesh to discuss the three-point formula presented to the two sides. This envoy will take necessary measures for arranging talks between the two sides if needed. Two [as published] points of this formula are "both the ruling party and the main opposition party are willing to hold talks on all issues in an atmosphere of mutual goodwill. Any issue raised by any party will be included in the agenda of the talks. This will include the strengthening of the election commission, the issue of a caretaker government, and proposals regarding formulating a proper code of conduct for conducting political activities." To initiate such a dialogue there should be keen interest and mutual trust between the two sides. Both sides have agreed to the above proposals. They have also agreed to issue a joint statement to the press at the end of each meeting for the information of the general public. The people participating in the dialogue will also refrain from issuing any separate statement.

In a message faxed to BSS, the Commonwealth press statement further stated that the both the prime minister and the leader of the opposition have agreed to hold the dialogue, thanks to the personal mediation of the Commonwealth secretary general, Emeka Anyaoku. The secretary general held several rounds of talks with all the sides involved in the matter. The press statement added that after the elections held in 1991, the Commonwealth monitoring group described the elections as a victory for democracy. Since then, militancy in the politics of Bangladesh has gradually increased. As a result of this, protest rallies and demonstrations are continuing in the streets of the country, and the opposition parties are going ahead with their parliament boycott.

The Commonwealth press release, in announcing the news of the consensus reached between the prime minister and the leader of the opposition for the holding of direct talks, quotes the statement made by the Commonwealth secretary general in this regard. He stated: "After my talks with the prime minister of Bangladesh, the members of her government, and the leader of the opposition, I have come to the conclusion that an identical and congenial atmosphere exists for a meaningful dialogue between the two sides."

India

Rao on Uttarakhand Call for Separate State

BK0610162294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said the center has no intention to create conditions for elections in any state where polls are not due.

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Addressing a news conference in Panaji this morning, Mr. Narasimha Rao expressed the hope that a solution to the Uttarakhand issue would be found. He described the demand for a separate state as a complicated one which deserved a thorough discussion before arriving at a conclusion. The Congress-I Working Committee has already discussed the issue. Mr. Rao, who was on a day's visit to Goa, welcomed the model code of conduct for political parties and curb on election expenses. He said, he would like all political parties to conform to these norms. The prime minister said the plague situation in the country is totally under control. Replying to a question, Mr. Narasimha Rao agreed that the prices have not come down as expected because of certain factors and said we will have to address ourselves to these problems now.

On Pakistan's propaganda about an armed conflict with India, the prime minister said we have taken cognizance of it. Mr. Rao rejected the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] demand for abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and said the article, in fact, will be extremely useful in solving the Kashmir issue.

Commentary Notes Upswing in Ties With Washington

BK0610134194 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Oct 94

[Commentary by G. Srinivasan: "Prospects of Indo-U.S. Relations Brighten"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The economic relations and cooperative efforts between the United States of America and India have, of late, been extremely cordial and mutually rewarding as most of the irritants impeding the bilateral bonhomie are getting removed. The Clinton administration's latest display of warmth is its decision not to invoke any provision of the U.S. Trade Law, Super-301, against India for its alleged restrictions on imports of American textiles. Since the U.S. Trade Representative—USTR—has decided to maintain a dialogue with India on the market access issue to American textile goods to India, there was no question of placing it on the section 301 priority or watch list which calls for investigation into the restrictive trade practices and penal action. Prior to this, the chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission—CPSC—Ms. Anne Brown, said in Washington that India's prompt action to ensure that garments exported to the U.S. met the country's flammability standards was praiseworthy. Ms. Brown, who recently met a delegation from India to discuss the recall of rayon and chiffon skirts, said she was encouraged by the measures the Indian Government had initiated following the CPSC's ban on imports of ghagras, that is, skirts from India. These two steps taken by the U.S. Administration over a period of a fortnight have sent the right signal that the Clinton administration is keen on building up relations with India following the visit of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, to Washington in May this year.

India and the United States, being the two largest democracies of the world, have much in common to share and strengthen in the larger interest of preserving peace and harmony in the world. A particularly noteworthy development in the Indo-U.S. relations was a spate of high-level visits by American business community and senior officials of the U.S. Administration in recent months. More recently, a high-level delegation of the U.S. investors and businessmen have expressed confidence in India's ongoing economic reforms. The 22-member delegation led by Mr. (Michael Getbo) was in Bombay and Delhi under the aegis of India interest group to promote Indo-U.S. business interest and generate greater investment in trade and commerce between the two countries.

According to a survey conducted by the U.S. Embassy in India very recently, India's estimated combined market size in such areas like electric power system, oil and gas field machinery, agricultural chemicals, aircraft and parts, electronic components and computers, and peripherals was around $34 billion last year. U.S. remains the single largest trading partner for India though second only to the European Community. While there was stagnation of trade with the U.S. from 1988 to 1992, Indo-U.S. trade rose remarkably during last year. U.S. accounted for about 18 percent of India's aggregate exports and 12 percent of total imports during 1993-94. In dollar terms, India has had a favorable trade balance since 1983. Exports to the U.S. stood at about $4 billion while imports were over $2.7 billion, yielding a congenial trade balance of about $1.3 billion in favor of India last fiscal year. Six items such as textiles and clothing, diamonds and precious stones, carpets and rugs, leather and footwear, marine products, and nuts account for three fourth of Indian exports to the United States. Other major export items from India include gems and jewelry, cashew nuts, dye stuffs, auto tires and parts.

Though India and the U.S. have had and continued to harbor differences of opinion on issues like intellectual property rights, financial sector liberalization, and market access for American products to India, both of them saw for themselves that such differences do not widen the rift in the bilateral relations. This has been made possible because both the democracies have shared perceptions on several other equally important fields that constitute life and peace in the world. Now that a series of high profile functionaries are slated to visit India from Washington early next year to cement Indo-U.S. relations further, one can confidently look forward to the future free from past frictions, but with gains from present consolidations flowing from recent decisions by Washington not to rub India the wrong way. This is a welcome signal and needs to be appreciated unreservedly by India.

Flights to Gulf Resume; Ports Lift Ban on Ships

BK0710070694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Air traffic between India and the Gulf countries resumed yesterday ending the 8-day

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old suspension of flights in the wake of outbreak of plague in some parts of the country. The Gulf Air yesterday flew 16 passengers from Tiruanantapuram to Bahrain. It is to carry another 50 passengers today. Air India has also decided to resume operations in the Gulf from today. The first flight will leave from Bombay to Bahrain this afternoon. Air India will operate its normal schedule to Muscat, Bahrain and Doha from Sunday. A flight will operate from Tiruanantapuram to Bahrain on Sunday in which 100 Indian passengers with resident permits and Bahrain nationals if any would be flown.

Meanwhile, all ports in the Gulf area have lifted ban on ships touching Indian ports. Colombo has also lifted the quarantine measure imposed on the Indian ships. Our Cochin correspondent reports that following the lifting of ban, export of marine products and other food items is coming back to normal.

In Punjab, six suspected plague cases out of the total of 28 were discharged on Wednesday from hospitals and the rest 22 are still under observations in various hospitals. The state health minister, Mr. H.S. Brar, told our Chandigarh correspondent that 170 suspected cases were admitted during the last two weeks, out of which 148 have been discharged. He clarified that so far none has been reported as positive. Meanwhile, with the sharp decline in admission of suspected plague cases in hospitals, the overall situation has shown substantial improvement.

Two Die as Police Fire on Bangalore Demonstrators

BK0710090994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karnataka, two persons died in police firing in Bangalore city this morning. The incident took place at Mysore Road in Bangalore city where groups of demonstrators protesting against telecast of Urdu news bulletin from Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra [television station] turned violent and indulged in arson, looting, and stone throwing. According to police, several vehicles were damaged in the incident. Our correspondent reports that the situation in the city is tense but under control.

Security Forces Kill 8 Militants, Capture 14

BK0610134394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir valley, security forces have killed eight militants and captured 14 others during overnight operations. A Defense Ministry spokesman in Srinagar said today that four militants were killed during search operations at Lalpur and Haripur in Baramula District. The others were killed in separate operations in Pulwama District and Badgam. A large amount of arms and ammunition was recovered.

Iran

Friday Sermons View Profiteering, Foreign Affairs

LD0710121994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared the government policy in confrontation against profiteering by some elements sabotaging the distribution system.

During today's Friday prayer sermons in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his first sermon, discussed the economic issues of society and explained the government's plans to deal with the problem. Our colleague reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] The president stressed that the government's future plan is to implement justice in trade and distribution, as the main issue of the day and as a highly significant social problem. He said: In accordance with the lofty instruction of Islam, it would not be sufficient to fix a price for a commodity just because the consumer is prepared to pay the price and is satisfied with a transaction.

He added: The necessary grounds exist for implementation of social justice; that is, goods are plentiful, all the distribution services are available, and there are laws and regulations to provide the necessary support. However, during the past couple of months, some opportunists have tried to exploit the situation. By hoarding goods and by charging high prices, these opportunists intend to act as agents of sabotage and as leeches. They intend to fill their pockets with easy money.

The Friday imam of Tehran invited the people to cooperate with the state to implement a plan on price control and supervision. He also called upon the voice and vision organization, the press, and the entire mass media to cooperate with the government in this matter. He asked them to promote a culture of contentment and fair profit.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: There are currently plenty of essential commodities in the country, and the attitudes in society demand market control and the supervision of prices. The people, the ulema, and the clergy are fully prepared to support the government action in this connection. Even the esteemed leader is personally in favor of control measures by the government to check prices and to deal legally with the hoarders and profiteers. Let us not forget that the government had the experience during the war of fighting against profiteering and hoarding .

During today's Friday prayer sermons in Tehran, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani strongly criticized greedy profiteers and said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] Today I am giving a serious warning to those whose hands are

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somehow involved in the process of destroying the fair environment of transactions. Here we do not wish to bully the shopkeepers, the wholesalers, and producers. However, under circumstances that you can see, so many satans all over the world intend to intimidate us and plan to inflict fatal blows on us, we cannot ignore the public opinion of our society. We cannot turn a blind eye to the factors that create dissatisfaction among the people. This is a principle maintained throughout the revolution and will also remain in force today. The gentlemen should, therefore, realize that the issue is serious.

I, as the head of the government, will pursue this matter with the same determination as during the time of our participation in the war, in the original struggle, or during the time of terminating the war, or during the time of taking steps to rebuild the ruins of the war. I will stand behind this problem and will deploy the manpower the same as when I deployed manpower to implement the economic readjustment policy.

What I ask you, the people, is that you should be active in this matter and give your support. First, when we have announced prices, please do not buy goods at high prices. If you come across profiteering, cooperate with the government and do not buy. If you must buy, then buy and report it to government inspectors. Inform them with proof and in writing, so that we can investigate and the officers can do their job.

If such coordination exists between consumers and the government, we can solve it very easily. In the near future, you will see that market control and establishing social justice in commerce is a very serious Islamic issue. [passage omitted] [end recording]

In the second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned the recent action of the Arab Persian Gulf littoral states in lifting the economic sanctions against the regime occupying Jerusalem. He said: That move surprised even the Israelis. He added: The acts of mischief by America and Britain have steered the Arab Persian Gulf littoral states toward the Zionist regime. They have falsely created an enemy for the Arab Persian Gulf littoral states out of Islamic Iran, so that they can attain their goals, which is plundering oil and the wealth of Arab countries. The Friday imam of Tehran stressed: They should know that Islamic Iran has extended the hand of friendship and brotherhood toward them and that no danger threatens from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the recent developments in the Azerbaijan Republic, the president expressed gladness about the end of the disorder in that country. He criticized the divisive moves in the Azerbaijan Republic under the present circumstances as harmful to Muslims and the world of Islam and stressed that they should be refraining from such moves.

Expressing regret about the continuation of war and fratricide in Afghanistan, he expressed the hope that the warring groups would cease their fratricide and, through talks, pave the way for the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

Larijani on Gulf Security, Iraq, Other Issues

LD0610214694 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1815 GMT 6 Oct 94

[Studio interview with Dr. Javad Larijani, chairman of the Majles Foreign Affairs Committee, by unidentified correspondent; from the "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Your Excellency, Mr. Larijani, this is the first question as an introduction to the debate: Why is it that the United States has always tried to pretend that the security of the countries of the southern Persian Gulf is under threat?

[Larijani] It is very natural to imagine that the U.S. intention is to arrange a subjective background for rationalizing the need for a U.S. presence, particularly military presence, in the region, and obtain the cost of this presence from regional countries. In the Persian Gulf region, particularly after the Kuwaiti event—and I have to point out here that the Iraqi attack on Kuwait was really detrimental not only to Iraq itself, but also to the whole region. After the Kuwaiti event, America felt that it had achieved a great success in the region and from then on its presence and involvement in the region took on huge dimensions. Today the Americans are involved in the daily affairs of the countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf; in decisions, in purchases, in oil, and most important of all in determining the ruling structure. These became apparent some five or six months after the Kuwaiti event and are now increasing in pace for their own particular reasons. Americans have to rationalize for their own people the presence and involvement of their troops in this region. They also have to rationalize their presence to the Arab countries of the region. Therefore, they are seeking to create a crisis in the region. This is why they did not want a solution to the Iraqi problem. Of course, I do not mean that the Americans have the right to intervene in determining the government of Iraq. Not at all. But the fact that they did not allow a solution to the Iraqi problem is a debate on its own. On the other hand, they are trying to damage Iranian relations with these countries. They inject all forms of plague in these relations. They cause fear in the heart of these countries. They make a fuss over totally irrelevant issues. These are all the preludes to the rationalization that these countries are threatened by a strong regional country and because they are weak they need a protector. But the one who has come to protect them is in fact the very misfortune of their lives that is uprooting them.

[Correspondent] Dr. Larijani as you said yourself, is not the very U.S. presence in the region and the huge military purchases by the countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf—which as the esteemed

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leader of the revolution said yesterday are smaller than a town in our country—an antisecurity phenomenon?

[Larijani] It is possible to say that the security of the Persian Gulf is threatened from three sources. First of all, foreign presence and intervention. The region has been a place for foreign invasion for a long time. It was the British Government before and it is the Americans now. Their presence and intervention is the first cause of insecurity. Then there is the existence of aggressive elements in the region of which we have had two examples in the past 15 years. The third factor is the very weak and elementary structure of countries in the region. In fact, these regional countries are the so-called countries. An effective element of a country's strength is national identity and a national body that could give it sufficient root. These countries that grew and were born from the impure womb of British colonialism, usually lack national identity. Therefore, a good number of them should be accurately called the so-called countries. The very nonexistence of an established political structure in these countries is a cause of insecurity. Naturally, the region will never be secure when these three factors exist together. On the other hand, if we ask when the region will become secure, we would have to say that the foreign presence and intervention have to be reduced, regional aggression has come to an end, and regional countries have to move toward an original identity. In such conditions we could envision a bright future for the region.

[Correspondent] Recently we have witnessed provocations by those countries against Iran. What could explain the Persian Gulf littoral states making those decisions? Basically, do those provocations have any legal basis?

[Larijani] Well, I had better talk about its legal basis first. Of course, politically speaking, it is perfectly obvious who is raising those issues. From a legal standpoint, our ownership of the three islands is so firm that I think any normal child with the least amount of sense would understand it.

About any piece of land there are two issues. One is ownership and the other is sovereignty. Iran's ownership of the three islands has never been dislodged. Even maps printed in the early 20th century all show Iran's ownership. Those islands have belonged to Iran according to all historical documents. Then Iran's ownership is in dispute.

Over a period of about 70 or 80 years our sovereignty over some of the islands was violated by a foreign power in the region. In those periods Iran constantly opposed and objected to it. About 50 years ago it even attacked but could not recapture them. Then, the party that had violated Iran's sovereignty left the scene, it does not matter for what reason. Naturally, the island was restored to its owner. The owner was Iran, which was ousted 20 years before. [passage omitted]

The matter, on the face of it, is so clear and obvious from a legal standpoint that there is not a shadow of doubt about it. For that reason my recommendation to our friends at the Foreign Ministry is that, instead of engaging in political discussions with our Arab brothers we should make jokes. Because what they say is a joke.

However, politically, its reason is perfectly obvious. In my view, we have a number of factors here. One is a military presence and interference in the region by certain parties. They saw that it would be a good thing to create a rift between Iran and themselves and prevent them from becoming close to Iran. Because Iran's policy has constantly been such that we should solve our problems with regional countries ourselves, develop the region, make the region safe.

Well, they saw that that policy was dangerous. That all the people in the region liked that policy. Because we did not ask them for money. We said, come and work together and sell the oil they are plundering, at a fair price. That would bring them money. We are not saying, come and buy arms from us. We say let us work together so that you would not need to buy arms. Spend your money on development. Our logic is, naturally, a very strong one.

Well, the Americans and the British were worried about that policy. Therefore, they began to sabotage. That is precisely a form of sabotage of Iran's very fundamental policy, which is regional cooperation. They have made certain claims. Those claims, as I have said, are a joke to our nation. But they create fear and terror and hostility for them.

There are some people outside the region who are in the habit of ripping off the countries in the region. In the Arab world there are some governments who make a living out of starting a problem and then saying, we will protect you, so give us some money. They, too, have entered the region.

So, when one regards the matter one really feels sorry for those small southern Persian Gulf littoral states. Because those interfering foreign powers are taking their oil and their money, and those other opportunist Arab countries are plundering them. What is left for them is misery, tension, and an atmosphere unsuitable for development. On the face of it, that is what the issue is from a political standpoint.

In my opinion, our policy has so far been a very reasonable one. We have always advised those countries: Instead of standing against a big and strong neighbor like Iran, come under its blanket. Our blanket is one of safety, security, and protection. We are in the region; we are those countries' brother; we would protect them. They want to destroy them. Especially when it comes to interfering in the region's political make-up.

In my view, that is one of the United States' most dangerous policies. It will completely tear the region apart. I do not think it will be long before they make complete political changes in some countries in the

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region—such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and one or two others—and throw away the present regimes and replace them with those they like. That is a very woeful scene. None of those scenarios is palatable to us. We consider none of them legitimate or sound for the region.

[Correspondent] Dr. Larijani, we heard in the news that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council has lifted the indirect economic and oil sanctions against the Zionist regime. What is the reason for the council's recent action?

[Larijani] Of course, that is not an individual action. That is, it is one in a series of actions, but one that has stood out because it was a significant one. If one were to list Israel's intentions in what they call the Middle East peace process, for it to give away a piece of land to Arabs means nothing. And there is no Arab Army to stand against Israel, to scare it. One of Israel's important aims was to enter the Muslim world. [passage omitted]

Of course, what the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region have done is abominable and is also very dangerous for their security. Because once Israel enters the region it will not protect them; it would safeguard the other part of the plan, which is to change the region politically, not them.

In my opinion, they have made a big mistake and committed a great act of treason against the Muslim world. Its consequences will be on their own heads.

[Correspondent] So you see a connection between the recent measures adopted by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the positive stance of Saudi Arabia toward Israel at the International Atomic Energy Agency, or the meetings with Warren Christopher?

[Larijani] They are precisely along the same lines. Let me tell you about another issue. The countries of the region are at a very odd psychological situation. On the one hand, they cannot rest because Saddam Husayn is still in Baghdad, they are afraid of him, he is a nightmare to them. The United States has made promises to them, George Bush had repeatedly bragged that we will do this and we will do that. They see that they had to spend so much money, something more than 70 billion dollars. That money has gone and, at the same time, that gentleman is still sitting in Baghdad where he was. On the other hand, they are also under pressure due to internal developments at home. Here Israel can get anything it wants from them with the help of the United States. That is, I would like to say that the countries of the region, with what they have done, have created a huge problem for themselves. Because this chain of demands cannot end. Subsequent demands will systematically follow. In my opinion, the first demand that will follow would be consultation with Israel about the formation of governmental-social structure of those countries in such a way that they can move in line with the so-called new world order. Therefore, by their mistake, the regional countries have, in the first place, sacrificed their own governments; which is, of course, quite shameful for the world of Islam.

[Correspondent] Dr. Larijani, the Arab League stance has been negative in this regard. What is the cause?

[Larijani] Of course, while I feel satisfaction over this negative stance, I never put faith in the Arab League's stances. The cause I think is the presence of elements such as Syria, Libya, Sudan, and such countries that have, one way or another, opposed this stance. For whatever reason, and despite the fact that the Arab League is an untrustworthy body, it took a reasonable stance. It is possible that some of those who took this negative stance did not wish to have a weak position in this deal. In other words, if their deal with Israel goes well they will be taking approving stances in six months or a year's time. So, while we have to welcome this good stance taken by the Arab League, we should never put too much trust in it. The Arab world have never had unity in history and this League is not a representative of a principled domain.

[Correspondent] It seems the deal with Israel has not yet had any advantages for the Arabs?

[Larijani] As you say, if we look closely it has not had any advantages, but they have called it land for peace from the beginning of the talks. To take back parts of lands under Israeli occupation, regional countries feel practically weak and are prepared to take back the lands in whatever way possible. Now Israel wants to use every square millimeter of these lands, in other words, the conditional and gradual return of every small piece of land in return for substantial advantages. Small pieces of land in Golan or Gaza have no importance for Israel, but entering the Persian Gulf or intervening in the Arab world is very advantageous. This is not a reasonable deal, but has the image of being land for peace.

[Correspondent] Earlier we spoke about the UAE's baseless claims. Now could this be connected to the lifting of sanctions by the countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf?

[Larijani] In fact, from the viewpoint of active elements there could be a connection, i.e. this is a part of what the Americans have planned and wish to implement as the new condition of the Middle East. Of course, if the economic sanctions are lifted, Israel will gain more politically than economically through its presence in the region. Of course, the Americans were not always unhappy about these so-called sanctions that were implemented more than 40 years ago. In some periods the United States did not want Israel to act too independently. It did not mind if all Israeli communication links led to Washington.

Therefore, the Americans were not always unhappy about these sanctions. Today, from an economic viewpoint, it is in the interest of America to let go of Israel a little. Israel no longer has the strategic position of being

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between the two superpower poles. It is worth spending on if it operates as a regional gendarme. But if it fails to act as a regional gendarme, which it will not—I think Israel has made a great mistake for it thinks that by making the Arab armies passive it has conquered the Islamic world. On the contrary, the armies have been pacified but a great barrier has been created in the Muslim world. This is the Islamic movement and the Islamic awakening. If Israel is not able to act as the regional gendarme the Americans will let it go. That is the day predicted in the words of the esteemed leader. This is a difficult day when they will pay for all their crimes in this world. I believe the Israeli policy, from this point of view and if you look at it rationally, is bound to be defeated.

[Correspondent] Finally, how do you assess Iran's stance toward the recent developments?

[Larijani] One of the good points about Iran's stance regarding its foreign policy is that, as they call us, we are fundamentalists [Larijani smiles at this point]. I do not dislike the word fundamentalism, I believe it is a very beautiful word. Our stance in the Persian Gulf region is probably the best stance, that if presented to any politician he would like it. Our stance is that, what are foreigners doing here? We, the countries of the Persian Gulf region, can sit around a table and cooperate in developing the region and also solve our own security problems.

On the so-called Middle East peace process, our stance has been a very clear and defendable one. We believe that those negotiations are neither fair nor productive. Therefore, if anyone is concerned about justice, there is no sign of justice in this, if anyone is not concerned about justice and wants a problem solved, then this would not solve the problem either. I believe that those two positions adopted by us are quite principled and noble. Of course, these infrastructural and fundamental issues should translate, in practice, into diplomatic and political moves by our diplomatic system. That responsibility obviously lies with our brothers in the Foreign Ministry, and God be praised they have achieved some satisfactory successes. They should endeavor to find ways of materializing such stances. But those stances, in principle, are very strong and logical stances.

[Correspondent] I thank you for giving us your time.

[Larijani] Thank you very much.

Majles Speaker Condemns U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD0610174894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, who is visiting Fars Province, today participated in the joint morning ceremony of the armed forces and law enforcement forces in Shiraz. He made a speech condemning the U.S.'s illogical presence in the Persian Gulf and the removal of sanctions against Israel by the Persian Gulf littoral states. Our correspondent reports from Shiraz on the continuation of Nateq-Nuri's visit, to which I draw your attention:

[Unidentified correspondent] Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles announced in Shiraz that the courageous people of Iran—under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the armed forces' commander in chief—will defend the Islamic Republic of Iran's sovereignty powerfully and wholeheartedly.

He was speaking at a joint morning ceremony with the participation of the armed forces and law enforcement forces, who are based in Shiraz. He condemned the illogical presence of the world-devourer United States in the Persian Gulf and the removal of sanctions against the Zionist regime by a number of the Persian Gulf littoral states. He explained the conspiracies hatched by the world arrogance and said: The islands of the Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa have always been under Iranian sovereignty throughout history and continue to be so. We invite our neighbors to think and learn a lesson from the bitter experience of their support for Iraq and remember that regime's invasion of one of its former supporters [Kuwait]. [passage omitted]

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles condemned the cunning efforts of foreign radios to mislead public opinion and said: The presence of people on the scenes is a source of encouragement for the officials and helps them adopt strong and revolutionary stances against the world arrogance. The secret of the durability of the revolution and the steadfastness of the system is the bond between the people and the late Imam [Khomeyni], God's benedictions upon him, and the Guardian of the Supreme Jurisconsult [Khamene'i], and that bond will continue. [passage omitted]

Majles Speaker Announces Aid During Province Visit

LD0710095494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Islamic Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, currently visiting the Fars Province, announced: The government plans to provide a subsidy of 417 billion rials in order to assist the low-income and the deprived strata. The subsidy will be divided among the state welfare organization, the Imam Khomeyni relief committee, and the Islamic revolution martyrs foundation.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri added: A sum of 300 billion rials has been allocated to the deprived areas, and a subsidy of 3.5 trillion rials is envisaged for wheat, sugar, rice, cooking oil, chemical fertilizers, and other essential goods.

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According to a Central News Unit report, Majles Speaker Nateq- Nuri, speaking at a question-and-answer session with the people of Fars province yesterday afternoon, explained the country's economic problems and stressed the need for freeing the state from dependence on oil, which is being exploited by the enemies of the revolution as a lever to weaken the regime. He added: We have two alternatives. Either we preserve the revolution's gains—that is, independence and freedom from affiliation to major powers, while remaining committed to the Islamic values and principles—or we abandon these principles just to acquire some facilities that will undoubtedly diminish the Islamic Republic of Iran's prestige.

We will, therefore, courageously stick to our principles, and we will confront any international pressure. Among the steps will be freeing our economy from dependence on oil. [passage omitted]

The Majles speaker went on: So far, 13.2 billion rials of interest-free loans has been placed at the disposal of the people in the earthquake stricken region of Firuzabad. An additional loan of 9 billion rials will be given to these individuals.

Source: U.S. Convinces Russia Not To Sign Arms Deal

LD0610145394 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—A senior U.S. official has said that the government of Russian President Boris Yeltsin would not sign a new arms contract with Iran.

The U.S. has received necessary assurances from President Yeltsin tha the Russian Government has restricted transfer of military hardware to Iran to termination of current contracts between the two countries, U.S. undersecretary of state claimed.

Addressing the U.S. Congress's Foreign Affairs Committee, he said the U.S. Administration has welcomed the issue and that talks between American and Russian experts would continue in this regard.

Meanwhile, IRNA correspondent in Moscow, quoting a diplomatic source reported that the U.S. Administration has convinced Boris Yeltsin that transfer of Russian military equipment to Iran should be done under U.S. supervision until the termination of Tehran-Moscow contract.

The source said he did not know anything about the promises made by the U.S. to President Yeltsin in return for Russia's refusal to sell arms to Iran but noted that Moscow was concerned about Iran's reaction to such a decision.

On the other hand, the source said, Yeltsin was not still sure that the U.S. would not start its arms sale to Iran through unofficial channels once Russia refuses to do so.

In a speech on Wednesday [5 October], leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i vowed that Iran has made necessary planning to reduce its military purchases from abroad as much as possible and instead manufacture best quality military hardware domestically with an aim of reinforcing its defence strength.

London Paper Examines Purchase of Russian Submarines

MS0610110794 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 6 Oct 94 p 12

[Report by Peter Almond: "Subs Sold to Iran End Up in Hot Water"]

[Text] Iran is having difficulties with two Russian Kilo-class submarines it bought in 1992 and is unlikely to take delivery of a third, defence sources said yesterday.

Tehran's acquisition of the diesel-powered submarines had prompted a search for defensive equipment by Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, which was considering purchase of several anti-submarine frigates. Britain has put ASW [Anti-Submarine Warfare] frigates on its Gulf Armilla Patrol.

But JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY said the warmth of Gulf waters appears to affect the endurance of the lead-acid storage batteries which power the vessels underwater, and were originally designed for the Arctic.

An American expert added that Iran, which has never before had submarines, has also had problems training its crews.

JANE'S said Iran is asking for help from India, which has eight Kilo-class subs and is reported to have solved the battery problem. But the third sub is unlikely to be delivered on schedule at the end of the year.

President Boris Yeltsin and President Bill Clinton agreed last week not to sell weapons to Iran beyond those already agreed, including the third Kilo.

Velayati Expresses Concern Over Azerbaijan Events

NC0710140594 Baku TURAN in English 1000 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (October 7) TURAN—Iran's Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, sent the message to Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister, Hasan Hasanov, which reads that Iran's Government and nation are concerned with the recent developments in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Iran's Foreign Minister mentions that "such events will create additional difficulties for Azerbaijani nation and Government, especially in the period of the Karabakh war and crisis".

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"Islam Republic of Iran and its nation express confidence that developments of such events will be stopped by support of Azeri nation and fore-sight policy of its leadership and we will become witnesses of strengthening of Azerbaijan's positions in world community, flourishing and independent state and establishment of peace in the republic", reads the statement.

Commentary on Problems With Azerbaijani Oil Deal

NC0710114294 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Sep 94 p 12

[Commentary by Ruzbeh Bu ol-Hari: "Azerbaijan—A Repetition of the Erroneous Policy of Closeness to the West"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republic of Azerbaijan and the consortium of Western oil companies signed an agreement last Tuesday [20 September] giving the consortium the rights to the extraction, production, and sale of the country's oil for the next 30 years. This is while Russian officials (despite the participation of the Lukoil company that owns 10 percent of the oil consortium's shares) announced their opposition to this agreement.

Azerbaijan is claiming the attention of the major powers for two reasons: Its oil resources and its strategic location in the Caucasus. It was for these reasons that Azerbaijan's independence after the dissolution of the former Soviet Union in 1991 provided the West with the opportunity to follow its policy of imposing its influence. The presidency of Abulfaz Elchibey, the head of the Popular Front, enabled the West, especially the United States and Britain, to sign an oil agreement in which Russia was not included. However, following the public discontent regarding Elchibey and the withdrawal of Moscow's support for him, the Azerbaijani president was toppled and Aliyev assumed power after much maneuvering.

Current Azerbaijani President Aliyev was subjected to Russia's pressure to carry out its three demands: 1. Membership in the CIS; 2. Russia's military presence in Azerbaijan; and 3. Continuation of the former economic relations.

Even though the first two of these wishes were acceded to, Aliyev sought to follow the policy of his predecessor regarding Azerbaijan's oil resources. Aliyev continued Elchibey's efforts to sign an agreement with the Western oil companies to attain three politico-economic objectives:

—To create a balance in Moscow-Baku relations and the reduction of Russia's influence in Azerbaijan.

—To elicit the West's support in the Nagorno-Karabakh war and to neutralize the Armenian lobby [preceding word in English] in the United States, which incites it to support Yerevan.

—To amass tens of billions of dollars that could extricate Azerbaijan from its economic crisis.

Thus, Aliyev believes that an oil agreement with the West will be able to deliver him from the problems stemming from Russia's influence in his country, the Nagorno-Karabakh war, and the economic crisis.

However, the presence of two problems, that is, Russia's opposition to the oil agreement and the manner of the transport of oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the outside world are blocking his path.

Regarding the first, it may be said that Moscow has declared its opposition to the agreement due to Azerbaijan's departure from its orbit of power and the increase in the West's influence in the strategic Caucasus region. In this case, one can understand the Russian sense of displeasure at the blow from the West and Aliyev. Accordingly, we should anticipate Moscow's reaction to Aliyev that might go so far as to topple him, as Russia will not be satisfied with anything less than a major part of the consortium's shares.

On the other hand, the manner of the transport of the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil pipeline is another issue confronting Baku. In this regard, Azerbaijan has three options: Using the port of Novorossiysk in Russia, through Armenia and Turkey, or through Iran. In this path, Aliyev, who—after Azerbaijan's participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace program—is in favor of greater cooperation with the West, does not want to transport oil through Iranian territory. On the other hand, he does not wish to affiliate himself with Moscow by using Novorossiysk. This is while reports in the past few months indicate that the West is seeking to obtain Baku and Yerevan's concurrence in transporting oil to the West through Armenian territory.

The United States has assured the Azerbaijani leadership that in the event of an agreement on this plan, the Armenian forces will depart from the areas they are occupying. Reciprocally, Armenia will benefit from the accrual of expenses paid for permitting the passage of oil through its territory. Apparently, the United States is extremely optimistic of the success of this plan. Bill Clinton had stated in a letter to Aliyev that the signing of the oil agreement will assist in a swift resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis. (Of course, the differences between Armenia and Azerbaijan are of such a nature that a swift solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict seems improbable).

Meanwhile, regardless of the Baku-Moscow differences, what should draw the attention of the Azerbaijani leadership is the need to distance itself from the policy of closeness to the West. Elchibey had followed the same policy and had pinned his eyes on a solution to the problems of Azerbaijan from across the borders.

The extensive political, military, and economic presence of the West in the Caucasus region is not an issue that

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would be welcomed by the countries that are neighbors of Azerbaijan and will also arouse the concomitant displeasure of public opinion and political parties, which will cause problems for Aliyev.

Delegation To Prepare for Velayati Visit to Iraq

LD0710093594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on his return home this morning after attending the annual 40th UN General Assembly session, told a correspondent of the Central News Unit: The Iranian delegation at this session raised the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran on regional and international issues, problems of the Islamic world, and the approach of the international forums vis-a-vis regional and global crises. [passage omitted]

Mr. Velayati added that, following an invitation from the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz asking him to visit Iraq, it was agreed that a team comprising high-ranking officials of the two countries should investigate the issues and prepare the grounds for this visit in the near future.

'Rising Wave of Opposition' in Saudi Arabia Seen

LD0610172794 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—A Persian daily Thursday [6 October] commented on the rising wave of opposition against the Saudi rulers and underlined its significance because of the backing it receives from religious and scientific authorities inside the country.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its weekly political analysis said that the crists in Saudi Arabia has even engulfed the royal court.

Although Riyadh usually acts as a closed chain and practises full news blackout in the country but more obvious signs and reports on the current crisis have reached abroad during the past week.

The paper termed the leakage of reports on the existence of problems in that country as very meaningful saying that they can serve as indicators for the fall of King Fahd's luck.

Discussing issues behind the developments, it asked if the United States had found a successor for King Fahd or Washington had come to the conclusion in the assessments about its Middle East policies that continuation of support for the Saudi family is not advisable for the U.S. Administration.

The paper also asked if the United States intends to prevent incidents in Saudi Arabia and even is thinking about the establishment of a republic there or the present developments are taking place in the framework of internal power struggle in the Saudi family.

There are tens of questions in this regard, said the paper adding that some of them may be irrelevant. Nevertheless, it reminded that it is for a long time that Washington has felt the need to make changes in the Arab imperial courts and thinks its regional and international interests depend on the change of power structure in the Middle East.

The paper did not rule out the possibility that the developments would be related to the lifting of economic and oil sanctions on the Zionist regime on one hand and the construction of a 32-storey hotel beside Kaaba by the United States on the other.

Zionist spies will start operations in the region as of tomorrow under the guise of commercial, trade and oil delegations, it said. Certainly the hotel project is not just a sort of simple cooperation in the field of tourism and hotel management, pointed the analysis warning that as a result Kaaba and Mecca can be left in the hands of the U.S. and Zionist espionage services.

Referring to the backing shown by the scientific and religious sources in the country for the new wave of opposition against the Saudi rulers, the analysis asked whether they have risen up against the ever-increasing influence of the U.S. and Zionist regime in the holy lands or other events were happening that only limited aspects of it are releaved to us.

Maybe all of these are simple imaginations, said the daily but cautioned with pessimism that some of them would tomorrow turn to heart-rending realities and that the world of Islam would come to itself one day and realize that not only the al-Aqsa mosque but even Kaaba is under Zionists' control.

All these indicate that Saudi Arabia is expecting unpredictable events, either a revolution or an offensive, concluded the paper.

Pakistan

Bhutto Invites Sharif To Lead Delegation at UN

BK0610150794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has invited the leader of the opposition, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, to lead the Pakistan delegation in the UN General Assembly to reflect national consensus on the Kashmir issue, which is our national cause. In a letter addressed to Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister has said, quote, as you are aware the Kashmir issue will feature prominently in the current UN General Assembly session, it will be our endeavor to focus the attention of the international community on Indian human rights violations and its occupation of occupied Kashmir. The prime minister said this stems from our

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belief, which, I am sure, you share that all encouragement and support must be extended to our valiant Kashmiri brethren in the critical phase of their struggle against Indian occupation. Former Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha will be going to the United Nations to represent Pakistan and so will Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. Our efforts will greatly benefit, if you were to agree to lead our delegation to the UN General Assembly, unquote. The prime minister said the leader of the opposition in India will be going to the United Nations to lobby for his country's cause. Your presence would convey to the world community our nation's united resolve on Kashmir and the solid consensus that has been forged. The prime minister said domestic political considerations, notwithstanding, she feels strongly that they must sink their differences for this national cause. The prime minister expressed her confidence that Mr. Nawaz Sharif will regard her request in the spirit that it is being made and that as a patriot his response would be governed by the highest national interest.

Defense Minister Views F-16 Problem, Other Issues

BK0610094494 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Oct 94 pp 1, 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore, Oct 5—Pakistan will take up the delivery of F-16 aircraft with US Defence Secretary Mr Perry, who is visiting Pakistan in January next year.

This was disclosed by Aftab Shaban Mirani, Defence Minister of Pakistan, during an informal talk with journalists. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Saeed M Khan was also present.

He said the chapter of F-16s is not closed and the matter is still actively being pursued through correspondence as he put it.

However, the Defence Minister added that the government would keep up the matter actively alive.

Aftab Shaban Mirani said that the government was according top priority to the defence of the country and for this purpose the armed forces were being equipped with latest arms.

Responding to a question with regard to the purchase of submarines and the kick backs allegation made by the Opposition, the Defence Minister refuted the allegation as baseless and unfounded.

He said Pakistan was considering purchase of submarines from four different countries, China, Sweden, Britain and France. But final decision was in favour of France because along with the purchase of these submarines the transfer of technology was also guaranteed.

He said the matter for the purchase of submarines was under consideration since 1988 and at last after 6.5 years it had been finalised. For this the credit goes to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto whose government took vital decisions to strengthen Pak-Navy.

The Defence Minister said, in 1965 Pakistan had only one submarine and India with a superior navy, was in a position to block Karachi and this would have put Pakistan in an adverse position. He said "now we have an efficient and dynamic navy and it has capabilities to defend the country".

Responding to a question about sub marines the naval chief said, "Pakistan has decided to purchase French submarines Agosta-90/B, besides other reasons, Pakistan had already Agosta submarines in its naval fleet. He further said that the submarines purchased from France were most advanced as 80 per cent of their equipment would be the same, that was used in French nuclear submarines.

At present, the Defence Minister added, Pakistan would get entire technology of submarines. He said according to an agreement, the first submarine would be built in France, the second, partly in France and partly in Pakistan and the third would be entirely built in Pakistan.

As regards recent addition in Pak-Navy, Admiral Saeed M Khan disclosed that Pakistan had purchased six type 21 frigates from England, one logistic ship Moawin and four Fokkars from Holland, three Lynx helicopters from England to upgrade naval capabilities.

Explaining the background for these naval purchases, the Chief of Naval Staff said, Pakistan Navy had to return eight Brook and Garcia class Frigates to the US as their lease period was over and due to the Pressler Amendment the US was not prepared to extend their lease period. To fill up the vacuum thus created Pakistan purchased ships from England. He said the US ships were 40 years old, while the new ships are 15 years old. He said these ships were undergoing major modernisation with installation of weapons. This modernisation will be completed in two years.

Three helicopters P-3c are for the purpose of maritime long range patrol and four Fokkar aircraft were being upgraded.

The defence minister said, in order to strengthen navy, the government had decided to build a new naval base at Oramara in Balochistan some 150 miles away from Karachi.

Answering another question Mirani said for induction of more aircraft in Pakistan Air Force, various suggestions and evaluation of performance of aircraft was being done by the PAF [Pakistan Air Force]. He said, performance of MiG-29, SV-37 and Mirage-2000 were being evaluated.

To another question about border clashes on the Line of Control (LoC) the Defence Minister said he did not see any chance of escalation of these clashes.

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He said a war is a very high priced game and surely India would not start it. He said if there is any development the offensive will be from both sides.

As regards Afghanistan, he said government was fully aware of what was happening in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

Naval Chief Sees No War in Near Future

BK0610120994 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Lahore—Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Saeed Muhammad Khan has said war is a sensitive and expensive matter these days and 'I don't see war in near future and that it will be offensive on both sides if India takes any stance' and I also do not see any escalation of clashes in Kashmir". [quotation marks as published]

He observed this while talking to newsmen Wednesday [5 October] at a local hotel after opening seminar on "Importance of Maritime Sector For Pakistan's Economic Development and Defence" sponsored by Pakistan Institute of Maritime Affairs (PIMA) and Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Committee on Shipping and Shipbuilding and Ports.

About the Opposition's doubts about the performance of the French Submarines for which a deal was recently done between Pakistan and France he said: "When the Naval experts are satisfied and had thoroughly evaluated the submarines others need not to worry". Admiral Saeed made it clear that since Pakistan Navy is already using French Agosta Submarines their upgraded version (Agosta 90B) would be suitable for us.

To another question, he said, unlike Army and Air Force, the Navy requires decades for strengthening its might. He said, the government is paying special heed towards improving the naval defence and after two or three years our Navy would be in a far better position to combat any offensive, though even now we are capable of facing India effectively.

Asked about recent purchase of equipment for the Navy, the Naval Chief told the newsmen that besides these three French Submarines, Navy had purchased six Type 21 Destroyers (Frigates) from United Kingdom (UK). These Frigates were purchased to fill the gap, created when Pakistan had to sent back eight Brook and Gracia Class Frigates to the US, due to the defence embargo on Pakistan after Presslers' Amendment. It may recalled that Eight Brook and Gracia Class Frigates and one Logistic Support Ship had been taken on lease from the US for five years.

He said as the Logistic Support Ship was also sent back to the US, a ship PNS Moawin (logistic support ship) was purchased from the Britain, which was commissioned on September 15. He said though the Type 21 Destroyers are 15 years old but they are better than the previous ones which are as many as 40 years old. However, these frigates are being updated. It may be mentioned here that out of the total 6 Type-21 Frigates, four have already been commissioned by Pak Navy while rest of the two frigates—Tipu Sultan and Shah Jehan—will be handed over to the Navy in January next. [passage omitted]

Government Welcomes U.S. Lifting of PRC Sanctions

BK0610111094 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Oct 94 pp 1,4

[Report by Fahd Hussain]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—The lifting of US category II sanctions against China on Tuesday for an alleged transfer of M-11 missiles to Pakistan, has been welcomed by Islamabad. "We had repeatedly told the US that we regarded the imposition of these sanctions based on incorrect information as arbitrary and unfair," says an official.

The US had clamped these sanctions on both China and Pakistan in August 1993, accusing them of violating the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Beijing and Islamabad had vehemently denied the accusation. The evidence to prove this allegation has not been produced by the Americans to date.

Though sanctions on China have been lifted, those on Pakistan remain in force. The joint statement issued by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and the US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday said that the United States had also offered to Pakistan "the opportunity to work with us to achieve key non- proliferation goals. We look forward to continuing those discussions with Pakistan."

A Pakistani official said on Wednesday that this issue of sanctions will not come up in the ongoing talks between Pakistan and the US which also cover a number of other issues.

The official said that after studying carefully the agreement that has been reached between China and the US, Pakistan welcomes the fact that the sanctions that had been imposed by the US on Chinese firms have been lifted. He said Pakistan and China have consistently maintained that and equipment transferred from China to Pakistan was within the parameters of the MTCR and even though China was not a signatory. There had been no violation of the MTCR guidelines.

"This US-China agreement appears to indicate that China has committed itself formally to observing MTCR parameters in its export policy," says the official.

The latest move by the US of removing category II sanctions against China is being seen as yet another effort by the Clinton administration to peddle a softer line with Beijing. This follows the renewal of the US

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Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trade status with China which was being linked to the improvement of China's human rights record.

Clinton received a lot of flak domestically for over looking Beijing's human rights record. But many interpreted this is a deliberate American strategy of using a carrot instead of a stick with China.

Pakistan on the other hand, appears yet again to have had a raw deal, courtesy Washington. Though sanctions on both China and Pakistan were clamped for the same reason, China has been let off while Pakistan remains "sanctioned down". But in return for the lifting of sanctions, the US has obtained from China a formal pledge to respect the MTCR guidelines, which China seems to have given willingly.

Sino-Pakistan defence cooperation is nothing new, given the close relations between the two countries. However, this has raised much alarm among western governments, particularly the United States.

The list of American accusations against Chinese nuclear transfers is a long one. In a report titled "China's record of proliferation", published in Proliferation Watch (US Senate Committee on Government Affairs), Vol.2, No.2, March-April 1991, p 3, these accusations were listed. They were as follows:

—China's reactor sales to Pakistan.
—Chinese assistance to un safeguarded [as published] uranium enrichment facilities in Pakistan.
—China reportedly provided highly enriched uranium to Pakistan in early 1980.
—China reportedly provided highly enriched uranium to Pakistan in early 1980.
—China agreed in 1986 to sell titrium to Pakistan.
—Nuclear weapons design assistance to Pakistan in 1980s.
—A rumour that Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yaqub Khan was present in 1983 at a Chinese nuclear test.
—M-II missile sale to Pakistan.
—Assistance to Pakistan in development of ANZA-II surface-to-air missile (1991), and HATF surface-to-surface missile (1991).
—Another rumour that the Pakistan Navy hoped to buy a nuclear- powered submarine from China.

Most of these charges have been denied by China.

Chinese nuclear policy, including its views on proliferation, has come long way from 1964, the year that China conducted its first nuclear explosion and gained membership in the exclusive nuclear club. China's Foreign Minister in the late 1500s Marshall Chen Yi is reported to have remarked once, "Given a piece of nuclear weapon, I won't be bullied by the US imperialist," (quoted by Dingli Shen of the Fudan Institute of Development Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai, in a research paper, 1993).

The government of China had explained the reason for its 1964 nuclear test in these words: "This (explosion) is a major achievement of the Chinese people in their struggle to increase their national defence capability and oppose in their struggle to increase their national defence capability and oppose the US imperialist policy of nuclear blackmail and nuclear threats."

And China had made no bones about the fact the only way to counter American nuclear blackmail was to obtain nuclear weapons. The Chinese statement had said: "More and more countries are coming to realise that the more the US imperialists and their partners hold on to their nuclear monopoly, the more there is danger of a nuclear war breaking out. They have it and you don't and so they are very haughty. But once those who oppose them also have it, they would no longer be so haughty..."

In the late 1970s, China started exporting arms. Its economy had been shattered after the decade-long Cultural Revolution, and the new leadership was in the process of adopting a more pragmatic policy. And arms exports to developing countries was quite a lucrative business. In 1987, China transferred dozens of modified DF-3A (CSS-2) IRBMs to Saudi Arabia. These had been modified not to carry nuclear warheads. China gained two benefits from this deal: First, Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relations with Beijing in 1990; and second, China earned a cool $1 billion. This liberal export policy continued through the 1980s since China had not signed the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] or the MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime].

It was in the 1990s that China started becoming more conscious of international pressures, and responding to them. A lot had to do with changed global scenario after the demise of the Soviet Union. On August 10, 1991 Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng sent a message to his Japanese counterpart Toshiki Kaifu that China would in principle sign the NPT. It deposited its instrument of accession to the NPT with the UK government on March 9, 1992.

Minister Views Border Trade With PRC, Central Asia

BK0710064994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Muslim republics of Central Asia has urged Pakistan to provide them transit trade facilities in Pakistan territory. This was stated by Interior Minister Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar while talking to Radio Pakistan's correspondent in Gilgit after his long visits to the Central Asian States, Afghanistan, and China. He added that for the time being Pakistan has agreed that the Karakoram Highway should be used for the exchange of trade convoys between China and Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The trade route to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan will be opened through Afghanistan. He said border trade between Pakistan and

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China has begun on a trial basis and trade with the Central Asian States will also begin by the end of next month.

Government Advised To Diversify Arms Sources

BK0610125094 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 6 Oct 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Mirage Planes Will Be Purchased From France"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The French defense minister has said in Islamabad after a meeting with Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto that Pakistan wants to purchase 40 Mirage aircraft from France. The Pakistan Air Force urgently needs them to boost its capability. The prime minister is likely to visit France within the next few weeks to conclude a deal for the purchase of these aircraft. The performance of the Pakistan Air Force has been exceptionally high and the government is always ready to meet the legitimate needs of the Air Force to maintain its standards. The Mirage aircraft have long been at the disposal of the Pakistan Air Force. The planes that will now be purchased are of the Mirage 2000-5 type, which can match any sophisticated fighter aircraft in the world.

Instead of depending on any one country, the government has decided to rely on a multitude of sources for its defense needs so as to ensure that the supply of equipment and spare parts remain uninterrupted and the country's multifaceted defense system is not affected. This is a prudent strategy. The government should adhere to this strategy and not deviate from it under any circumstances.

Federal Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani informed the Senate that the issue of the U.S. supply of F-16 planes to Pakistan has not been wound up and negotiations are continuing. Pakistan has paid in advance for these planes; it therefore hopes that it will get them. Recently, two U.S. officers visited Pakistan with the objective of settling the plane issue within the shortest possible time. Pakistan had concluded a deal to purchase 71 planes, 60 of which have yet to be paid for; the rest will be purchased on loan. [sentence as published] The Pressler Amendment posed a hurdle to the supply of the planes. The government is trying its best to either get the planes or a return of the money which it paid for them. It is also studying a number of alternative proposals to settle the issue, which include seeking judicial procedures, referring the issue to arbitration, or to the international chamber of industry. The defense minister was responding to two identical motions in the Senate.

The desire to acquire the F-16's is a justified desire and it is not illegitimate to make efforts to achieve this objective. However, is there any guarantee that this desire will be fulfilled? The United States has not expressed any desire to return the money paid by Pakistan. However, there is no harm in continuing the negotiations. Of course, the government should not keep its eyes closed to alternative sources.

Nation Not To 'Compromise' Interests on MTCR Issues

BK0610162794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has declared that it will not compromise its vital interests while negotiating issues relating to Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR] with the United States. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the United States has already completed its negotiations on the subject with China while talks between Pakistan and the United States are continuing. Welcoming the agreement about waiving of U.S. sanctions against China, he said Pakistan is carefully studying it. He said imposition of sanctions against Pakistan and China was arbitrary, unfair, and based on incorrect information. The spokesman said if some material was transferred from China to Pakistan, it was within the purview of the MTCR.

Sharif's Proposals Urge Government To Quit

BK0710071594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The PML [Pakistan Muslim League]-Nawaz group chief, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has proposed a package of political and constitutional reforms demanding the resignation of the present leadership and holding of fresh elections. He presented the package at a combined parliamentary convention in Islamabad yesterday. The PML-Nawaz group today also issued a fact-sheet on different subjects criticizing the policies pursued by the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Government in the last one year.

Editorial Urges 'More Realistic' View of U.S. Ties

BK0610095494 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Oct 94 p 6

[Editorial: "US-China Accord"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chinese have, at long last, given in to American pressure and signed an agreement that would stop the export of Chinese missiles and technology to other countries. As a part of the deal, which has been finalised during the Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's visit to Washington, the US would lift its 14 month-old sanctions involving a ban on certain US technology to China. A US statement termed the Chinese commitment as "going beyond the requirements set forth in the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)." Ironically, the Americans had imposed the sanctions against China on the plea that shipping technology and parts of M-11 ballistic missiles

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to Pakistan was a violation of the MTCR, a charge that both China and Pakistan had denied. Now that the Chinese are quite willing to play ball with the Americans, and have agreed to halt all further exports of such missile technology to any other country, the MTCR has become irrelevant, it goes without saying that the delinking of the human rights issue from economic ties has facilitated Washington's bid to secure the deal with the Chinese and forestall the flow of missile technology to quarters which they see as 'undesirable'. In all fairness, we cannot blame the Chinese for leaving their old friends high and dry. Self-interest is obviously the overriding concern of every country, and the Chinese too have struck a bargain that has extracted for them substantial concessions from the Americans.

Nevertheless, what should be a cause of real worry to Pakistan is the US duplicity. We are often told by our responsible government leaders that the Americans, notwithstanding the Pressler Law, are quite keen to be friends with us, and are willing to lend a helping hand in our developmental activity. The highly-publicised deals for power generation in the private sector have been, for instance, cited as a manifestation of the American goodwill. Ironically, even the US backtracking on the F-16s deal did not deter our ruling elite from exuding optimism about an imminent change of heart in Washington. The US-China accord has clearly brought home the message that the Americans are hell-beng on administering their 'prescription for good behaviour', and will not let Pakistan acquire from any source what they have declared as 'contraband material'. The tragedy is that while the Americans are ruthlessly pursuing their global designs; not losing sight of their undisguised objective to militarily isolate Pakistan, we are still stuck with illusions of winning back the benevolence and patronage of the reigning superpower. It is high time to be a little more realistic in evaluating the worth of Pak-US relations, and refrain from misleading the people about the return of the good old days when the Americans needed our services as a pawn in the Cold War, and were prepared to overlook what they now consider a serious irritant.

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